



LEFT:
Bridgend's
first First
Minister
signs in on the
dotted line
(see page 4).
(See also first
engagement
pictures on
page 10).

Bridgend & Porthcawl

GEM



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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17TH, 2009

**EVERYONE AT THE GEM WISHES ALL OF OUR READERS AND ADVERTISERS A
PEACEFUL, HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND EVERY SUCCESS IN THE NEW YEAR.**

The GEM will not be publishing next week. We will return on Thursday, December 31. (See page 7)

Lions' run is Porthcawl Boxing Day highlight



ABOVE: Fran and Geoff Dower, owners of the Hi-Tide, with Porthcawl Lions president Geoff Thomas and Lions Les Higgins (technical wizard) and Martin Patten, organiser, in front of the new winners' board and shield.

THERE are six furlongs added to the Porthcawl Lions Boxing day Fun Run this year; but those already entered or considering entering should not panic, you will not have to run any further!

The course is still 38 furlongs (4.75 miles); the extra six are the Furlong family, who have all entered the run for the first time.

The Fun Run, started by the 'Nutters' from the Hi-Tide in

1981 was taken over by the Lions Club of Porthcawl in 1995, when the group disbanded, and has been run by them every year since, with tremendous support from Fran and Geoff Dower.

The run starts from the Hi-Tide at 11am (all competitors to register by 10.30am), and the course goes along the Promenade to Mallard Way, down Fulmar Road, through the playing fields, up Locks Lane, back down the common, along the Promenade, finishing at the Hi-Tide.

WHOLESALE changes to the provision of sports and leisure facilities and services in Bridgend are likely.

A major action plan is due to be reported to the borough council cabinet in January, following "extensive" consultation with sports clubs, schools, community groups, the Sports Council for Wales and others on the options under consideration.

In a report to the cabinet on the consultation, Mark Shepherd, head of Healthy Living, said that the status quo was not an option.

He said that the current sports and leisure service was not "fit for purpose." It is operating against a background of increasing costs, a drop-off in income and attendance at leisure facilities whose condition is deteriorating, and which are becoming less safe and attractive.

He said that a significant proportion of the population was not using the service regularly, and there were high levels of physical inactivity and poor health in the borough.

Mr Shepherd said that the council's role would increasingly become

Man held after woman attacked
POLICE in Bridgend have arrested a 27-year-old local man on suspicion of attempted murder and aggravated burglary following an incident in North Cornelly early on Wednesday morning (December 16).

A 78-year-old woman suffered non life-threatening injuries, and has been treated at the Princess of Wales Hospital, police reported.

Detective Inspector Jason Redrup said that they are not looking for anyone else in relation to the incident.

He said: "We are appealing to anyone who may have seen anybody behaving in an unusual or suspicious manner in the vicinity of Heol Degwm and Mountain View, up until 5am on Wednesday.

"We are also looking for a lady's brown handbag with six pockets on the outside and a black purse, and ask that local residents check their gardens, bins or any footpaths."

Anyone with information is asked to contact Detective Inspector Redrup at Bridgend CID on 01656 679518, or anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Report says council can't carry on subsidising Bridgend leisure centres

one of a facilitator and a commissioner of services, rather than a direct provider.

He went on: "There is currently an over-reliance on the provision of facilities, with insufficient investment in local community activities, promotion of the outdoors and voluntary club support."

He warned that it would be impossible to try to deliver everything for everyone, and it was unlikely that any additional funding would be forthcoming from the council.

Savings had to be made from within the existing service, so that it could be invested in new activity. However, capital funding will still be needed to upgrade and renew those facilities which the council decided to support after the rationalisation has taken place.

The report in January will include a detailed assessment of the financial implications of delivering a reconfigured service.

Bridgend Recreation Centre will be put under the microscope in that report, because although it attracts 500,000 users a year, it also has the highest subsidy of £900,000.

The draft sports and physical activity strategy, which was the document that went out to consultation, states that the leisure market has changed significantly since Bridgend Recreation Centre was built in the 1970s and customers' needs were now very different.

Their report stated that there were private companies who were interested in moving into the running of public leisure facilities.

The report also suggested that the required investment might come from a new 'partner' – and in return that partner would take a role in running the centre.

In the case of Bridgend, the January action plan will look at whether to invest in the current facilities, or relocate them to other sites, such as schools.

Assembly survey says our libraries are just too old and too small!

BRIDGEND'S library service is spread too thinly across buildings that are often unfit for purpose.

That was the conclusion of a report presented to the cabinet of Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) which looked at how Bridgend compares with Welsh public library standards.

The service has just been assessed by the Welsh Assembly Government, which found that it met five of the 14 standards, with a further three partly achieved.

Bridgend improved its position in the two years before 2008, as a result of increased revenue for books and computer provision.

However, officers have warned that to achieve any more improvements by the target date of 2011, additional funding for books will be needed – either through extra funding or by reallocating money within the budget from areas which could be cut without having an adverse effect on performance.

An analysis of Bridgend's service has found that there is an under-provision of books, but an over-provision of library buildings – especially too many small, poorly performing ones.

Three arrested after assault

POLICE are appealing for information, following an assault at around 10.30pm on Monday, November 30 in the vicinity of Pets at Home, Picton Court Retail Park, Bridgend.

A 23-year-old man was set upon by a group of people and punched and kicked to the floor, sustaining injuries requiring hospital treatment.

Two men, aged 28 and 21 years old, and a 25-year-old woman, were arrested and released on police bail pending further investigations.

Anyone with information is asked to contact DC Gareth Newman at Bridgend CID on 01656 679518, or anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.



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Bridgend MP befriends bone marrow charity

BRIDGEND MP Madeleine Moon has shown her support for people needing lifesaving bone marrow transplants by becoming a parliamentary friend of The Anthony Nolan Trust.

She attended a reception at the House of Commons last week with Education Secretary, Ed Balls MP, and charity representatives, including the family of campaigning leukaemia patient Adrian Sudbury.

"This is such a crucial issue," said Ms Moon. "Over 16,000 people worldwide are currently waiting for a lifesaving bone marrow transplant and I know many people here in Bridgend who have had leukaemia touch their lives."

"It is absolutely vital that we recruit as many people as possible to



Madeleine Moon with Tracey Sands of the Anthony Nolan Trust.

bone marrow register so we can save more lives every day. I'm delighted to do what I can to support this terrific work."

As a friend of

Anthony Nolan, Ms Moon will help to raise awareness about bone marrow donation in parliament and in the wider public.

Henny Braund, chief executive of The

Anthony Nolan Trust added: "There are many myths about bone marrow donation, and it's

really important that we raise awareness so people can make their own decisions, and potentially save someone's life."

"Most donations

today take place via a fairly simple process similar to giving blood. It's really easy to join the register and we desperately need more people aged 18-40, especially those from diverse ethnic backgrounds. You can find out more at www.anthonynolan.org.uk"

RECENT changes at the award-winning Bridgend Male Choir see its president, Trevor Veasey, becoming enrolled as a choir patron, joining such illustrious names as Welsh composer, Karl Jenkins, entertainer Max Boyce, and soprano and Radio Wales presenter, Shan Cothi.

Local businessman, Trevor, has been at the helm of the choir for the past six years as its president, his generosity and concert support (together with his wife, Julia), being appreciated by all concerned.

He represents what is good about Welsh life, combining his love of rugby and singing, where he is also president of Bryncethin RFC. Always ready to support, he has toured regularly overseas with choristers.

He is succeeded as president by another local businessman, Paul



Presidential hand-over!

Porter, JP, formerly a choir vice-president, who is from a musical family background and also enjoys Welsh choral singing.

Paul is the principal of Porters Estate Agents. Like his predecessor, Paul is very supportive of the choir, being

involved in recent years with the success of the annual concert and currently, as an invaluable link between author and publisher with the choir's new book to be released in the New Year to celebrate its 50th birthday.

As with Trevor and

Julia, Paul is also easily supported by his wife, Lynne, and it is pleasing that both couples are

regularly seen together at concerts. Entering its golden year, Paul has a busy time ahead, apart from having two daughters getting married in the next three months.

Another of the choir's vice-presidents is Bridgend Assembly Member and new First Minister Carwyn Jones.

A regular concert supporter, not only of Bridgend Male Choir, but also of others in the locality, choristers were delighted with his party election result and wish him every success in his new role.

Hopefully, he will still have time in his even busier schedule to enjoy his love of music.

DAVID T BURT

Lower fuel bills for association's tenants



ABOVE: Ansley Workman (left) discusses saving heating costs with tenants.

BRIDGEND tenants of a housing association will benefit from warmer properties and reduced fuel bills this winter, thanks to its "ongoing commitment to reducing its environmental impact."

First Choice, which specialises in accommodation for people with learning disabilities, has worked with leading energy provider E.ON and the Mark Group to improve the environmental efficiency of three properties in Bridgend.

"Now 11 tenants with learning disabilities can look forward to a toasty winter and lower energy bills, following a survey of our properties' energy efficiency ratings - which identified key areas for improving energy saving measures," the association states.

With the support of a grant from E.ON, as part of its Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT) initiative, and an investment of £17,000 by First Choice, loft and cavity insulation improvements have been made with the Mark Group carrying out the installation.

Ansley Workman,

Warning over lost medication

POLICE issued a warning this week after medication was lost by a man travelling on a train from Bridgend to Cardiff on Friday, December 11.

"The tablets - 600mg of Etodolac were in a white plastic carrier bag. Anyone who comes across the tablets should hand them in to their nearest police station," a spokesman warned.

We welcome your views and news. Email them to the Editorial Department:
ggem@internet-today.co.uk

A canine thank-you

THE humans and canines of Dogs Trust Bridgend would like to thank everyone who supported their recent annual Christmas fair.

The volunteers who helped on the day were 'wag-tastic' and there was a fab festive atmosphere from all the members of the public.

It was a huge success and raised more than £2,000, which will go directly to look after the many dogs in our care.

Rhia Stankovic-Jones
(Dogs Trust Bridgend)

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL DECEMBER 31)

The high tides listed in The GEM are those in Barry. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Porthcawl, the high point will be 15-20 minutes earlier.

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
	AM	M	PM	M
17 Thur	07.07	14.0	19.33	13.9
18 Fri	07.49	13.9	20.09	13.8
19 Sat	08.27	13.8	20.47	13.7
20 Sun	09.01	13.6	21.17	13.5
21 Mon	09.33	13.4	21.46	13.3
22 Tues	10.07	13.3	22.22	13.1
23 Wed	10.39	12.9	23.01	12.7
24 Thur	11.24	12.5	23.39	12.4
25 Fri			12.03	12.3
26 Sat	00.28	12.1	13.08	12.0
27 Sun	01.41	11.9	14.24	12.1
28 Mon	02.52	12.2	15.32	12.6
29 Tues	04.01	12.9	16.36	13.2
30 Wed	05.01	13.6	17.34	13.8
31 Thur	05.58	14.2	18.31	14.4

The GEM - A family owned newspaper covering Penarth to Porthcawl!

LOCAL INFORMATION

MADELEINE MOON MP for Bridgend Westminster office - 0272194417, Constituency office - 47 Nolton Street, Bridgend. Open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 10am - 12pm (by appointment only). Telephone 01656 750002.

HUW IRRANCA-DAVIES MP for Ogmore Constituency Office 01656 737777

JANICE GREGORY AM for Ogmore Constituency Office 01656 860034

CARWYN JONES AM for Bridgend Constituency office 01656 664320

Bethan Jenkins AM for South West Wales Telephone 01639 643549

BRIDGENG CAB Citizens' Advice Bureau, Ground Floor, 26 Dunraven Place, Bridgend CF31 1JD 01656 654951 - Open: Mon: 10:00am to 1:00pm - No callers - Phone only; Tue: 10:00am to 1:00pm - Closes ... hour earlier; Wed: 10:00am to 1:00pm - Closes ... hour earlier; Thu: 10:00am to 1:00pm - Closes ... hour earlier; Fri: 10:00am to 1:00pm - Closes ... hour earlier.

MAESTEG CAB Citizens' Advice Bureau 01656 734662

POLICE Bridgend 01656 655555

Porthcawl 01656 785411

Maesteg 01656 732122

CRIMESTOPPERS 0800 555111

(Emergency number 999)

COASTGUARD 01792 366534

GAS (escapes and emergency) 0800 111999

ELECTRICITY (power cuts) 0800 0520400

WATER SUPPLY (emergency) 0800 0520130

FLOOD LINE 0845 9881188

HELPLINES

Alcohol and drugs:

Drinkline 0800 9178282

National Drugs Helpline 0800 776600

DASH 01656 650686

SSAFA - Forces Help for serving and ex-service men, women and families in need 01656 785435

RAF Association Welfare Officer 01495 249522/01446 740522

SAMARITANS (emotional support) 01656 662333

MENTAL DISTRESS

(Mental Health Matters) 01656 767045

CHILDLINE 0800 1111

NSPCC 0800 800500

RSPCA 0300 123 0744

WOMEN'S AID 01656 766139

Bridgend Carers' Centre 01656 658479

Alzheimer's Society (Bridgend) 01656 651490

BRIDGENG COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Housing service

(General inquiries) 01656 643643;

(emergencies out of hours) 01656 643643;

(homelessness) 01656 643643.

EDUCATION 01656 643643

LEISURE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES 01656 642677

HIGHWAYS (drains, blockages etc) 01656 643643

HIGHWAYS EMERGENCIES (outside normal working hours) 07831 143600

SOCIAL SERVICES (general enquiries) 01656 642200

SOCIAL SERVICE EMERGENCIES (outside normal working hours) 01443 204010

HOSPITALS Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend 01656 752752/668090.

Bridgend and District NHS Trust 01656 752752/668090.

VOLUNTARY WORK Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations (BAVO) 01656 810400

TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS

Brackla Community Council 01656 767072

Bridgen Town Council 01656 659943

Cefn Cribwr Community Council 01656 741354

Coity Higher Community Council 01656 656358

Cornelly Community Council 07882 044798

Pyle Community Council 01656 670251

Cochy Churh Higher Community Council 01656 863418

Cochy Lower Community Council 01656 647216

Gar Valley Community Council 01656 736751

Laleston Community Council 01656 656506

Llangynwyd Lower Council 01656 720086

Maesteg Town Council 01656 732631

Merthyr Mawr Community Council 01656 670058

Newcastle Higher Community Council 01446 750663.

Ogmore Valley Community Council 01656 849402

Pencoed Town Council 01656 869031

Porthcawl Town Council 01656 782215

St Brides Minor Community Council 01656 725031

Ynysawdre Community Council 01656 736751

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Borough council gets new powers to tackle under-age drinking

NEW powers to tackle under-age drinking have been handed to Bridgend County Borough Council.

Local Trading Standards officers can issue an £80 fixed penalty notice for disorder to anyone found selling or supplying alcohol to under-18s.

The new powers follow a joint initiative with all four of Wales's police forces and covers 18 of the 22 Welsh local authorities.

Helen Picton, head of the council's Trading Standards played a key role in bringing both Bridgend and other Welsh councils on board.

Deputy Leader, Coun David Sage, said: "Trading Standards already operate a rigorous inspection and enforcement policy when it comes to tackling under-age drinking and sales to minors.



Supt Paul James (South Wales Police) presents Helen Picton (Head of Bridgend Trading Standards) with her accreditation.

"These include carrying out test-purchase checks on traders to establish whether they will sell alcohol to youngsters, as well as prosecutions and reviews of alcohol licences.

"BCBC is committed to protecting our young people from the dangers of under-age drinking and these new powers will be an extra weapon in our armour as we continue

to tackle this serious issue. We should never underestimate the dangers of under-age drinking for youngsters and their communities."

Helen Picton added: "I am delighted that this new power is now available to assist us in this important area of work. Although the penalty is issued to the person at the till, we will still continue to take the necessary action against the licence holder as well.

"Premises selling alcohol need to have clear procedures for staff training and make sure staff clearly understand that if there is any doubt whether purchaser is old enough to buy alcohol then proof of age is requested.

"If there is any doubt, then the sale must be refused."

Ms Picton and Coun Sage, have attended a special ceremony at Newport's Celtic Manor, hosted by the Chief Constable of Gwent Police Mick Giannasi, certificates were presented to all the newly-accredited trading standards officers by relevant police forces.

Mr Giannasi said: "This is a welcome extension of the policing family and enables a speedier, quick and effective justice and can reduce the administrative burden on the courts."

Borough council is set to take over traffic wardens

TRAFFIC wardens are set to disappear from Bridgend's streets by the end of next year.

South Wales Police have confirmed they will no longer enforce parking restrictions and other traffic orders in order to save money.

They were going to withdraw from April 1 next year, but agreed to postpone that until December 31.

Councils can now enforce double yellow lines and other restrictions and could appoint their own wardens.

Police want councils to decriminalise parking and introduce civil parking enforcement.

A report to Bridgend's cabinet, revealed that the council would have to apply to the Welsh

Assembly Government to assume the powers necessary.

All fines imposed from parking are retained by the council to pay for the cost of employing the wardens.

Council officers have warned that illegal and obstructive parking can create a serious road hazard, as well as congestion.

They said that illegally parked vehicles can interfere with the free flow of traffic, stop the movement of emergency vehicles and buses and also affect driver visibility, screening pedestrians and cyclists.

At present, police employ four traffic wardens in Bridgend, but officers warn that this number will reduce over the next year as wardens seek new jobs and they are unlikely to be replaced.

Officers say that taking on these powers would have potential benefits, as they would have control over the deployment of the new council wardens across the highway network.

They say that the police will remain liable until the council agrees to take up the civil enforcement powers - if it agrees to do so. However, it is likely that the criminal sanction will not be enforced.

The report goes on:

"If the police proceed with the removal of parking enforcement the lack of this service, without any alternative facility, would cause serious road safety and traffic flow issues.

The council must, therefore, work in partnership with South Wales Police to ensure an appropriate outcome

to this issue."

Officers say that taking on these powers would have potential benefits, as they would have control over the deployment of the new council wardens across the highway network.

The council receives a considerable number of complaints about illegal and obstructive parking and they would be able to organise a targeted response, which could be more effective than the present system.

The report says that there would be "significant" set-up costs for the scheme plus "considerable" on-going operational costs.

Councils who have already introduced it have had mixed results, with some eventually covering their costs from the fines, but others have failed to do so and have had to subsidise the scheme from other income.

Authorities throughout the South Wales Police area are affected and the cabinet has agreed to co-operate with the neighbouring Vale Council, Rhondda Cynon Taff and Merthyr in commissioning a study to look at all the issues.

SEWTA (South East Wales Transport Alliance) will also contribute £10,000 towards the cost. Each council will pay between £3,000 and £5,000.

The Bridgend cabinet will receive a further report once this study has been completed and will then make a decision.

JAYNE ISAAC

Bridgend couple are married in Cyprus

A LOCAL couple were recently married in a civil ceremony on Cyprus.

Christopher Dent of Bridgend and Kimberley Olwen Barnett from Rhoose tied the knot in front of close family and friends at the Nissi Beach Hotel, and the reception was held in Blueberries, Ayia Napa.

Christopher is the son of Joyce and Graham Dent of Barry, and Kimberley's parents are Tom and Hilary Fogg of Rhoose.

The bride wore a dress of ivory chiffon. The best man was Adrian Dent. Also in attendance were the bride's brothers, Laurence and Morgan Fogg, and the bride's sister, Emily Barnett.

The couple will make their home in Bridgend.



ABOVE:
Mr and Mrs Dent

The couple will make their home in Bridgend.

Thank you for saying you saw it in The GEM

Bridgend choir takes part in local friendship concert

THE Bridgend Male Choir featured at the St Mary's Catholic Church, Bridgend at the annual friendship concert in aid of church funds.

Under the baton of musical director, John Jenkins, and with accompanists Laura Smith and Scott Williams on piano and organ respectively, the choristers were on top form, receiving a standing ovation from an appreciative audience.

Again appearing with the choir was talented Bridgend teenager, Hannah Vivian-Byrne, who thrilled concert goers with her four songs, most particularly with the popular *Hallelujah*, also receiving a standing ovation.



ABOVE:
St Mary's Primary School sang carols at the event.

Hannah was accompanied by her father, Kieran.

Equally entertaining was the school choir of St Mary's Primary School with carols old and new, under the direction of Gillian Weale.

This young choir is a credit to its conductor, the school and the children's parents and thoroughly deserved its instrumental in the senior choir's continuing success.

Organist, Scott Williams from Brackla, The only soloist to

enjoyed the evening was the sprightly John French tunes and later Morgan, who sang *Lily of the Valley*, in the programme with a medley of

selection from Felix Mendelssohn.

which he first sang an

Together with amazing 40 years pre-

rianist Laura Smith, viously. DTB

Fashion show gives stroke clubs big boost

A PORTHCAWL 'Evening of Style' raised nearly £800 for The Stroke Association.

Jane Egan of Designer Designs organised a fashion show at the Hi-Tide in Porthcawl to raise funds for local stroke survivors and their families supported her in putting on the event, to Owen Money and his daughter Katie for their support and to the stylists Elaine Boddy and Lisa Pauley-Cordes of Green and Brown, and the models from Kirstie Howells Model Agency, who all gave their time and support free of charge."

A showcase of clothes from her company, a bazaar of quirky, stylish gifts, and a comic interlude from the legendary Owen Money, who himself suffered a stroke, made for a fantastic evening combining fashion, fun and fundraising.

Jane Egan said that she decided to organise a fashion show after her father suffered a major stroke earlier this year.

She was keen to organise something to both recognise the support that The Stroke Association gave to her and her father, but also to raise funds to support more stroke survivors and their families who find themselves in a similar situation.

Stroke survivors from the nearby Stroke Association Communication Support Group in Bridgend, agreed to model in the fashion show to highlight the need to raise awareness of stroke.

Louise Bennett, fundraising manager for Wales at the Stroke Association, said: "It was a fantastic evening and so worthwhile. The clothes were fantastic and, as ever, Owen Money went down very well with the audience. We were delighted to raise £800.

"A huge thank you must go to Jane herself, to all the volunteers who

New litter bins placed in Newton

TWO new litter bins have been placed by Bridgend County Borough Council on Beach Road, Newton, following complaints from residents and Porthcawl councillors.

The existing bins could not cope with the volume of litter and the extra bins will increase the capacity.

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LISTED VICTORIAN HOUSE TO LOSE ITS CONSERVATORY

PERMISSION has been given by Bridgend planners for the conservatory at a listed Victorian house to be demolished.

The conservatory at Cae Court, in Merthyr Mawr Road, Bridgend, was damaged beyond repair in a fire and the owners, who are Riversdale Surgery, applied for consent to demolish.

Bridgend Civic Society has opposed the plan, arguing that the conservatory should be rebuilt, as did Bridgend town council.

In his report, planning officer David Llewelyn said that the house was a Grade Two listed Victorian gothic house. The conservatory, at the front of the house, had been added later and was Edwardian. It was attached to the original entrance porch and

linked the house to the road.

In a letter to the council, Charles Thorp of Bridgend Civic Trust, said that the house had been left unoccupied for years and had deteriorated.

He said that the conservatory could not be repaired because of charing to the timbers but using photographs, it would be possible to construct a reasonable facsimile.

He said that the trust had urged the surgery and the council to ensure that the house was put to good use, but it was neglected and vandals got in, resulting in the fire that all but destroyed the conservatory.

He went on: "It is the contention of Bridgend Civic Trust that the owners be obliged to restore the conservatory to its original state, and to safe guard the rest of the building with a view to early occupation.

"We feel that if a site is owned with an unwanted building in situ, it is too easy to let it fall into disrepair, thus making demolition the only option. Allowing this application will set a precedent for others. We therefore urge that this application be refused."

Mr Llewelyn said that the conservatory was part of the special architectural and historic interest of the building and it was regrettable it had been destroyed by

fire. But he added: "It is not, however, a part of the original building. It is considered that it was likely to have been added in the early 20th century."

He said that the conservatory could not be repaired because of charing to the timbers but using photographs, it would be possible to construct a reasonable facsimile.

He added: "The main issue is whether the conservatory should be reconstructed. In historic terms, the interest in the structure lay primarily in the fact that it was an example of a Messenger and Co conservatory.

This company was famous in Victorian and Edwardian times for their greenhouses and conservatories.

"It can be argued that any reconstructed conservatory would be a modern replica only and therefore any historic interest has already been lost."

Mr Llewelyn said that the conservatory was always an "awkward addition to the house, colliding rather uncomfortably with the porch and jarring against the gothic character of the front."

He went on: "Originally, the south-east facing conservatory must have created a pleasant leafy entrance to the house from a quiet country lane. With the change of commercial use and the urbanisation of the context, however, the porch became more of a liability as a magnet for vandalism."

Mr Llewelyn said there was little justification for trying to get the conservatory rebuilt.

He said that any money available would be better spent renovating the main house, and also on repairing fire damage to the stone porch and the door of the original house.

The committee was told that Cae Court is about to be sold to new owners and any unhelpful intervention by the council could delay or prevent the sale going through.

Mr Llewelyn recommended granting consent for the demolition subject to the salvage and conservation of the metalwork of the conservatory, which is to be stored. The porch is also to be made good.

Listed building consent is subject to the approval of CADW.

Carwyn takes oath of office



BRIDGEND AM Carwyn Jones is pictured taking his oath of office as First Minister on December 10 before senior Presiding Judge for Wales, Mr Justice Nigel Davis. (See the new First Minister's inaugural engagement on page 10).

School news at Llanharsi

WHOOPS A DAISY ANGEL
WHAT a great concert and not a dry eye in the house!

The nursery and reception children put on a fantastic show with all the trimmings of a Christmas concert.

The children sang and performed to the highest standard which is a credit to the staff in the Foundation Unit.

The support from family and friends was excellent with more than 100 attending the performances.

DONATION

THE school has received £150 from the Friends of Llanharsi Primary School.

This was a welcome surprise and was gratefully received. Together with other donations, the school has been able to fit fixed stage lighting which will benefit the school and its pupils for many years to come.

PANTO VISIT
ON Monday, December 21, most of the school will be attending the pantomime *Beauty and the Beast*.

Please would children bring a packed lunch for the day if they are going on this trip.

Children who are not going will be expected to attend school as usual, where activities will be planned.

PARTY TIME

THE infant party will be held on today at 2pm and the junior party will be on Friday, December 18 at 2pm.

Food and drinks will be provided by the school.

LOCAL VISITS

THE school will be attending the following services:

Penial Chapel, whole school, Friday, December 18 (am); St Illtyd's Church, juniors, Tuesday, December 22 (am).

Cllr. CRAIG JONES
The Chair of Brackla Community Council on behalf of the Community Council and fellow Councillors, would like to wish all the residents of Brackla a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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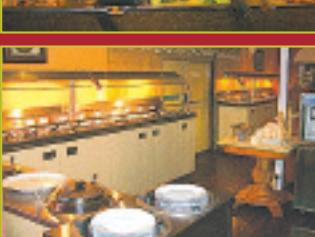
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Olympian comes to Pencoed to check on gymnastic talent

TWO sporting stars visited Pencoed Comprehensive School last week, to see if the 2012 Olympics planned for London is inspiring young people in Wales.

Olympic gold medalist and former world triple jump record holder Jonathan Edwards joined Welsh rugby wing Shane Williams at the school.

Boys aged four to 18 from Pencoed Gymnastics Club showcased exactly what they can do in a 15-minute display, followed by a solo performance from Welsh champion, Ben Dennis.

Jonathan Edwards is a London 2012 board member, and was on a visit to Wales to meet the Sports Council for Wales, which has committed £29,000 funding to cultivate the talents of gymnasts in Bridgend.

Investment has been ploughed into training more coaches to a higher standard in a bid to cope with the demand for the sport at grassroots level.

A Sports Council spokeswoman said: "Already, more than 400 youngsters who were previously on waiting lists, are now actively engaged in the sport."

"Recent reports have revealed that the standard of gymnastics

across schools in Bridgend has, and continues to increase. This is partly down to a makeover of PE lessons by the Sports Council.

"It has stepped in to make sure teachers are more confident in delivering technical sports like gymnastics and that lessons are made fun and engaging for the pupils."

Pencoed Gymnastics Club member Ben Dennis is currently the Welsh champion for both the rings and parallel bars disciplines.

A regular in the training squad for the Commonwealth Games, he is a genuine hopeful for Welsh medal success in the future.

Jonathan Edwards, said: "It's inspiring to see the quality of gymnastics in Bridgend, and it's encouraging to witness the area playing its part in ensuring its students and communities embrace the Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2012."

Coun Lyn Morgan, cabinet member for well-being at Bridgend County Borough Council, said:

"We have a wealth of sporting talent here in Bridgend county borough, and are committed to developing athletes of the future."



'WATCH YOUR HEADS!'

Former British athletics star, Jonathan Edwards, is pictured above with members of Pencoed Gymnastics Club.



Dymuniadau Gorau a Chyfarchion Cristnogol am y Nadolig, gyda Bendith Duw ar gyfer y Ffwyddyn Newydd oddi wrth Maer Cyngor Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr Cyngorwr Jefferson Tildesley a'i Gydweddog, Mrs Audrey Thomas



With All Good Wishes and Christian Greetings for Christmas, and with God's Blessing for the New Year from The Mayor of the County Borough of Bridgend, Councillor Jefferson Tildesley and his Consort, Mrs Audrey Thomas

Above: Welsh rugby star Shane Williams, currently sidelined by injury, joined Jonathan Edwards to see a demonstration by young members of the gymnastics club at their base in Pencoed Comprehensive School.

Warning over shed burglaries

RESIDENTS in Pencoed are being advised to check the security of their sheds and any out buildings after a number of burglaries in the area.

Bridgend Neighbourhood

Inspector Steve Evans said: "In the past few days there has been a spate of shed burglaries in Pencoed, with a number of sheds at the allotments on Penprys Road being targeted, and some gardening tools stolen.

"Another shed at a house on Heol y Groes was also broken into with building materials removed.

"The allotment sheds were broken into overnight between Saturday December 5, and the following morning and the burglary at Heol y Groes took place during the following night.

"We would like to hear from anyone who may have seen anything suspicious in the area on either night in question.

"Thieves will target sheds and garages for valuable equipment such as power tools, bike and sports equipment.

"Owners can make it more difficult for burglars by implementing simple crime prevention such as using strong locks, fixing non-return screws to door hinges, chaining larger items, perhaps buy an alarm which can be bought for under £20 from most DIY shops.

"Finally, contact the police should you witness any suspicious activity."

Anyone with information regarding these burglaries is asked to contact Bridgend police station on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Crime crackdown

POLICE in Bridgend are running a special operation in the days leading up to Christmas and warning criminals to "stay away" from the town centre and retail areas.

"There will be a high visibility police presence with officers on foot patrol to increase public reassurance and deter potential offenders," they warn.

Sergeant Fiona Haggerty from the Bridgend Neighbourhood Team, said: "I would like to

reassure everyone who visits Bridgend town centre and Bridgend Designer Outlet that in the build-up to Christmas, whether they are a visitor, shopper or a trader, that we will be aiming to ensure the Neighbourhood Policing Team is visible and on patrol at times when they will be most effective and when they are most needed.

"I also want to stress that anyone coming to Bridgend with the intention of causing any form of disruption or committing crime, will be dealt with in a robust and positive manner."

Showcase for Porthcawl artist Jean



ABOVE: Coun Bob Burns and Jean Floe, speaking at the opening of the exhibition.

A PORTHCAWL artist is showcasing her work in an exhibition which runs until January 25, 2010, at the Grand Pavilion Cafe Bar.

Jean Floe has entitled the exhibition 'At Last' – and it represents six months of hard work, using the natural beauty of local nature, particularly flowers and plants.

Jean gained a degree in fine art in 2005, and the exhibition title reflects the fact that it has taken her longer than intended to put the show together.

Jean's work is in a variety of styles and media, with watercolours, textiles, and silk screen prints as well.

The exhibition was officially opened by Coun Bob Burns and his wife Dianne, who are both Bridgend town councillors. Mr Burns is also a borough councillor, and he spoke enthusiastically about the importance of art in people's everyday lives.

Also, wearing his county borough councillor hat, he said how disappointed he was that the borough did not have an agreed arts strategy.

There to support Jean on a very well-attended opening night was her husband, the Rev Paul Floe, from Trinity Church.

The exhibition runs until January 25, and the Grand Pavilion will be open every day except Christmas Day.

Trespasser's fall lands owners of the Cornelly quarry in court

A QUARRY owner has been fined £10,000 after a teenage trespasser was seriously injured in Bridgend last year.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) prosecuted Tarmac Ltd of Wolverhampton – the owners of Cornelly Quarry – after a 15-year-old boy gained access to the site and fell around 50ft. He suffered a broken elbow, fractured wrist and chipped pelvis in May 2008.

The incident led to Tarmac Ltd pleading guilty on December 11 to a breach of Regulation 16 of The Quarries Regulations 1999 at Cardiff Crown Court. They were fined £10,000 with costs of £6,930.85.

HSE's investigation revealed that a dense, impenetrable hedge run-

ning between the boundary of Cornelly Quarry and Heol y Splot had been removed in preparation for expansion of the quarry but, because work had been delayed, it had been temporarily replaced by two lines of earth banks, which the injured youth, along with others, had easily been able to climb.

HSE Inspector Alan Strawbridge said: "The youth clearly should not have been trespassing in the first place, but quarry owners are more than aware of the dangers posed by their sites, and have a duty to take reasonable precautions to prevent trespassers gaining access.

"In this case, the earth banks were not sufficient, and while they were only temporary, there should have been more robust measures in place.

"There are some clear

messages arising from this case. Quarry owners and managers need to fully risk-assess the dangers of their sites and proper measures to manage those risks.

"Additionally, there is a message to the public

that quarries are not leisure amenities and trespassing can result in serious injury.

"In this case, the boy was lucky, as a 50ft fall would usually result in more serious injuries and potentially prove fatal."

TV switchover starts on 3 March.

Questions? Call 08456 50 50 50 (English language), 08458 48 48 48 (Welsh language).



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EMAIL YOUR NEWS!

● WE welcome your news, views and sports items. Please email them to the Editorial Department at: ggem@internet-today.co.uk

News in and out of class at Litchard Primary School

Condolences
THE staff and governors of Litchard Primary school would like to offer heartfelt condolences to the families of Royston Thomas and Alex Jones, on their recent bereavement.

The boys attended both the infant and junior schools, and are remembered fondly by everyone who knew them. Our thoughts are with both families at this very sad time.

We also send our best wishes to another former pupil Nicky Landon and his family, wishing him a speedy recovery from his injuries. Keep your spirits up Nicky - we look forward to seeing you up and about soon!

WORKSHOP
THREE structural engineers recently came in to talk to year-6 about bridges and to construct a bridge.

"We were split into two groups to make a bridge out of wood and metal. We all had different jobs to do, like fixers, cleaters, peggers

and transporters. We had a chance to walk across the finished bridge. We were all kitted up with hats, jackets and goggles and had a great day."

Report by Ella Edwards (6H) and Siân Woolcock (6S).

WELSH LEGENDS

YEAR-3 children visited Cardiff Castle and went to a Welsh Legends workshop, with the story of Gelert by an accomplished story teller called Dylan (complete with atmospheric music and surroundings).

The children then took part in a drama session re-enacting the story. To finish off the day, the children were treated to a tour of the castle. Everyone had a wonderful day. Thank you to the staff who accompanied the children on the trip.

THEATRE TRIP

LAST Tuesday, year-6 visited Swansea Museum and the Theatre Na N'og.

At the theatre we saw a show called "Halt! Who goes there?" which was all about the escape at Island Farm prisoner of war camp.

Then we went to Swansea museum to do activities concerning the camp, family life and parts of the show. Overall, it was a good trip and we had fun.

Report by Daniel Jenkins 6H.

CHRISTMAS SING-A LONG

THANK you to everyone who attended our Christmas sing-a-long with the RAF St Athan Voluntary Band on Sunday.

It was great to see Alan Bourne and the band back for the 20th time. This has become an annual fixture which sets the scene for Christmas. Thanks to everyone who turned up to take part in, support and enjoy the event.

A special thank you to the staff who prepared and served the refreshments and to Mrs Edmunds for making all those delicious mince pies. What a lovely start to Christmas!

SUPER SWIMMERS

WELL done to Aimée Alexander 5M and Zoë Mountjoy 5C, who both swam in the Welsh Capital swim meet recently.

Both girls beat their personal best times and Zoë received a bronze medal!

Supervisors

ARE there any ladies out there who have an hour to spare over the lunchtime? We are looking for relief lunch time supervisors to cover sickness and absences.

If interested, please contact the school office. May we take this opportunity to thank Mrs Susan Fletcher for all her hard work during her time with us as a lunch time supervisor and welcome Mrs Nicola Stephens as her replacement.

TREE FESTIVAL

LITCHARD Primary School entered a tree in the spectacular Christmas Tree Festival at Nolton Church.

We also have other displays around the school depicting the caring elements of Christmas. Well done, everyone!

NETBALL

ON November 25, Mrs Muir accompanied a team of 10 year-6 girls to the Mid Glamorgan Netball Competition.

There were 13 teams in the competition and Litchard won five out of their six matches.

They beat Tredegar A 2-0, Garth Olwg 3-0, Maes y Coed 3-2, Brackla 4-2 and Cynwyl Sam B 7-0! We lost to Plasnewydd 4-2 but went through to the semi-finals where unfortunately we lost 2-1 to Ysgol Gynradd Cymraeg.

It was a most enjoyable day, with great team spirit and sportsmanship shown.

Mrs Muir would like to thank Chloe Baker's and Ella Edward's mums for their help with the transport.

CHRISTMAS BOXES

THANK you to the pupils who have brought in shoe boxes of gifts for children in Azerbaijan.

The boxes have been safely delivered to

Llantrisant for sorting and dispatch.

Some children there will have a lovely surprise this Christmas.

DRAFT PLANS

THE first draft plans for an exciting new project are available at the school if anyone would like to see them.

You may already know that nearly £3m has been allocated to link the current infant and junior buildings with a new block which will include: classrooms, toilet facilities, community room and administrative offices.

SWIMMING AWARDS

Congratulations to the following children on passing their swimming awards:

Luke Harding – Level 1 swimming award; Caitlin Alexander – Duckling 1+2 swimming award; Ailish O'Sullivan – Stage 2 swimming award; Evan Miles – Stage 3 swimming award; Olivia Howe – 10m Rainbow swimming award; Imogen Lewis – 5m swimming award; Ella Jones – 50m Distance swimming award.

Well done to you all!

BALLET AWARDS

WELL done to Lauren Webster and Courtney Hathaway-Pope, both from Mrs Gilbert's class, on passing their Royal Academy of Dance Pre-Primary Ballet examination recently.

Garden centre's early present for the KPC Youth



PYLE garden centre has donated 50 bags of bark to help the KPC youth centre adventure resurface its adventure play area to make it safer for youngsters.

Jason Perman, manager of Pyle Garden Centre, said: "Members from the youth group contacted us to find out if we would be willing to donate some bark chippings to help rejuvenate their play area. We were more than happy to provide them with 50 bags of bark free of charge to do the job."

"We also sent along a member of staff from the garden centre to help the members of KPC Youth spread the bark chippings out."

KPC Youth is an award-winning youth project that has been helping young people in the communities of Kenfig Hill, Pyle and Cornelly since 1998. It offers youngsters aged between eight-years-old and 25-years-old a safe, drugs and alcohol-free environment.

The project aims to work with its members to offer them a range of different activities, as well as access to information and training. It also runs regular workshops on youth-related issues at its centre.

Alison Mawby, project manager at KPC Youth, added: "It is fantastic that the garden centre has donated such a large quantity of bark to us and we really appreciate its help. We are also grateful to all of the people who came along to the centre to lend a hand spreading out the bark chippings."

"Our adventure play area is a well used part of our centre and over time the ground has become worn away. We are delighted that the bark will not only enhance the area, but will also make it a much safer play-ground."

From left to right: Unpaid worker for the National Probation Service, Albert Williams Ripplefar, supervisor of Community Payback, which is part of the National Probation Service, Bryan Halliday, senior youth worker at KPC Youth, Karen Phillips, project manager at KPC Youth, Alison Mawby and Pyle Garden Centre assistant, Jim Phillips with the bark chippings donated to KPC Youth by the garden centre.

Anyone for Scrabble?



Scrabble.

pany, as he does not like to be alone at the moment but this can be worked on with more training.

Scrabble has been with us since October and is fully vaccinated and neutered. We know he will make a wonderful companion, so please come out and see him!

Contact the rehoming centre at Court Colman on 01656 725219.

An early taste of Christmas

NOTTAGE WI NEWS

THE monthly meeting was held on December 3 in the Unitarian Church Hall Nottage and vice-president Mrs Joan Thomas opened the proceedings.

After the formal business, the rest of the evening had a Christmas theme, with members enjoying a meal prepared by Mrs Iris Williams and Mrs Eira Jones.

Later, there was bingo and a raffle; prizes of chocolates were won by Mrs Mary Tashara, Mrs Iris Williams and Mrs Vi Jones.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 7, 2010 at 7pm in the Unitarian Church Hall. All visitors are very welcome

ANN VIPOND

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Cefn Cribwr church gains mini-bus for the use of the community

THE Bethlehem Church Life Centre in Cefn Cribwr has bought a new mini van for use by everyone in the community, following a donation of £500 from Corus Strip Products UK.

The new mini bus is used regularly by the local primary school to transport pupils, local youth groups, and for taking local disabled children to a weekly horse riding therapy course.

Bob Emmett, manager of Design Services and Nia Singleton of Community Liaison at Corus, visited the church and were able to see first hand how the mini-bus was being used to benefit the community.

Pupils from Cefn Cribwr Primary School had been using the mini-bus to attend horse riding lessons.

Their teacher, Mrs Willis, commented that



Children from Cefn Cribwr school are pictured on the new Bethlehem Centre mini-bus with, from left: Pastor Mike Holmes, Corus manager design services Bob Emmett, Mal Thomas and Nia Singleton, Corus community liaison. Photo by PETER KNOWLES.

without the generosity of the church, many of these extra-curricular activities, which were so vital to the development of the children, would not be possible.

The mini-bus will also be used to transport used furniture, clothes

and household goods to homeless and needy people in the Bridgend area though the church's 'community connections' project.

This is run by volunteers, and some are retired Corus employees. Mal Thomas, who now volunteers, as the project manager, was delighted that his old employer was able to give something towards this worthwhile project.

Keith Farron, manager, community liaison at Corus Strip ProductsUK, commented: "Mobility within communities is always important to bring together communal activities and services for the most vulnerable and isolated, so we are pleased that we have been able to make a contribution towards their fund."

Anyone with spare furniture or household goods to donate to Community Connections, should call 01656 749922.

You can now read your Glamorgan GEM online - www.bridgend-today.co.uk or www.porthcawl-today.co.uk

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A festive message from The GEM

bid – in particular, our local charities.

In response to this, despite the changes in the market place that have also had an impact on The GEM, we have decided to make a £200 donation to the local branch of the Samaritans charity, which like ourselves, serves the people of both the Bridgend and Vale of Glamorgan county boroughs.

The work of their dedicated volunteers has never been more desperately needed to cope with the inevitable human fallout from an unprecedented financial crisis.

The GEM's donation not only acknowledges the Samaritans' crucial role at this difficult time, but also again underlines our own longstanding support and commitment to the community of which we are proud to be a part.

We are now taking a short festive break and will not be publishing next week.

The GEM will be back on Thursday, December 31, when it will be business as usual, as we prepare for the fresh challenges that lie ahead.

Meanwhile, we wish you all, readers and advertisers, peace and prosperity in 2010.



Barnardo's expanding its schools counselling service

A SUCCESSFUL Barnardo's schools counselling service in the Vale will double its size next term as pupils at eight secondary schools and 'the pupil referral unit' will have the chance to benefit from the service.

The expanded service, available from January 2010, is intended to help pupils in years 7 to 11 deal with issues that have an impact on their emotional well-being, such as bullying, bereavement and family breakdown.

Jason Baker, Barnardo's Cymru manager, said:

"This is the first service of its kind that Barnardo's has been involved with in Wales. "One in five young people in Wales suffer from mental health issues, so there is clearly a real need to give emotional support to youngsters, particularly when they are going through a major transition like adolescence."

"To be able to access this kind of service

through school means young people will realise it's okay to ask for help and talk about their problems, which will help to combat the stigma that can often be attached to counselling."

Barnardo's Cymru has already appointed counsellors to deliver and develop the service.

● Last week's GEM story headlined 'Authorities should act more decisively against the bullies', which told the story of a schoolboy

who claimed he had been victimised by fellow pupils, leading to two breakdowns, drew calls to our newsroom.

The general response was that people were glad the issue had been aired, with some speculating as to where the school is situated.

The GEM will not divulge any details of either the pupil or the school involved, and warns readers not to make any assumptions on the location of the school, as the authorities

and the family continue to seek ways of resolving this difficult problem.

YOUR VIEW?

If you have a view on the issue of bullying and how it is dealt with in our schools, The GEM would like to hear from you.

Please email ggem@internet-today.co.uk or write to: The Glamorgan GEM, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge, CF71 7EL.

Garw Railway's open day

THE Garw Valley Railway recently held its first open afternoon at Pontycymer Loco Shed.

A number of old faces from the Vale of Glamorgan Railway at Barry Island were in attendance to use their Santa Special skills and welcome local residents to 'see behind the scenes'.

The event allowed visitors to view the rolling stock, restoration work

and even the see the members of the Vale of Glamorgan Railway in action. Santa was in attendance and members were on hand to discuss the railway project with visitors. The next open afternoon will be on Saturday (December 19) Work parties normally take place each Saturday between 1.30-3.30pm.

The miniature railway will again be in operation, Santa will be in and especially those who attended and supported our former refreshments will be Santa events at Barry available. The shed is over the years. We located adjacent to look forward to seeing Pontycymer Leisure you in the beautiful Garw Centre. Any previous Valley. NW



THE POSTIES' WALK GIVES BARNARDO'S A BIG BOOST!

PHOTOGRAPHS BY KEITH E MORGAN

AS was reported in The GEM at the time, five Porthcawl Postmen walked from Porthcawl Pier to Mumbles Pier in September to raise funds for Barnardo's.

Last week, the five took a short break from sorting and delivering the Christmas post to hand over a cheque for the magnificent sum of £1,973.65 to Liz Singer, the national chair of Barnardo's, and Andrea Crole, the chair of Barnardo's Porthcawl self-help group.

The five Porthcawl postmen who made the long walk are David Thissen; Charles Clode; Darrin Armsby; Mike Cook and Lee Thomas.

RIGHT: Special delivery for Barnardo's!



ABOVE: Liz Singer and Andrea Crole with the postmen.

CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES
THE first of the Young at Heart Club's Christmas celebrations began on December 3 with a fish and chip lunch.

Members thanked Anne Ellis and Marje Adams for once again providing the super desserts; and John and Dave, who made sure lunch arrived on time.

The club's second lunch was held at the Atlantic Hotel, Porthcawl, on December 10.

Commissars to Celia and Norma, who were unable to enjoy the lunch.

Everyone at the YAHC hope they will soon be home to enjoy Christmas with their family.

The club will re-open on January 10.

TALENTED CHILDREN

IN the beautifully-decorated Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge, the children of Llangan Primary School gave a lovely performance of carol singing during the recent concert.

Three children were outstanding with their solo performances – Ella Jones, Erin Challacombe and Tom Hamilton. Harpists were Ioan Werelbaugh, Olivia Sims and Claudia Howells.

SARON CHAPEL, TREOES

THIS year's carol service was really outstanding.



COMMUNITY NEWS
TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL
Your local correspondent is Nancy Davidge, "Tynewydd", Llangan. (01656) 860303

names will be published at a later date.

Christmas Day:

Eucharist at 10am.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

TREOES Community Hall: Councillor Community Hall reported that the Ogmore Valley Male Voice Choir will use the hall for rehearsals – except when the Llangan council meets.

The hall will be showing televised Welsh rugby union matches on its wide screen.

Llangan Community Hall: Work will start on the disabled toilet facility once everything has been inspected and passed.

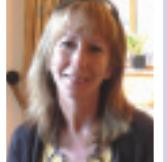
Councillor Vafidis and the clerk have discussed the many issues in Llangan which need resolving, but again it seems lack of the necessary cash in the stumbling block.

A MESSAGE FOR CHRISTMAS

ONCE again, another year is coming to a close, with tragedy and sadness for so many people.

We who have our family members close, should spare a thought for our servicemen and women in far off lands, and hope that perhaps they will be home next year and peace will prevail.

Happy Christmas to all readers of my column.



Labour candidate says 'support the hunts bill petition'

LABOUR'S parliamentary candidate for the Vale, Alana Davies, is encouraging local people to sign a petition to protect the Fox Hunting Act.

Mrs Davies said: "Five years ago, the ban on hunting with hounds became law.

"Since then, dozens of prosecutions have been brought under the Act, showing that this ban is making a real difference. Not only is the ban making a real difference, but it is also supported by the overwhelming majority of the British public."

She pointed out: "According to the results of an Ipsos Mori poll last month, three-quarters of people do not want hunting with dogs to be made legal again. There is no evidence that the doom-laden predictions for rural communities that hunt campaigners made have materialised."

"The Hunting Act remains under threat because the Conservative Party have made it clear they want to get rid of it as soon as possible."

"I am, therefore, encouraging people here in the Vale who want to help protect the ban to sign up to the petition at: www.backtheban.com."

We welcome your news and views.

Please email them to:

ggem@internet-today.co.uk

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Is it me, or does the house seem smaller this year?

As families grow, the combination of having lots of visitors and spending more time in your home makes Christmas a time to reflect on how little space you really have.

Many people are not keen on taking on a new mortgage in the current climate, but with low interest rates, they're looking to use existing mortgages to make the most of the home they already own.

Fiona Evans, Manager of A One Construction in Bridgend, has observed this pattern; they offer a full planning to build service and are currently working on many renovations and extensions for houses in the Vale area and other parts of South Wales.

"Extending your home with a larger kitchen or extra bedroom, can make a tremendous effect on your living experience today, but will also pay dividends if you choose to move in the future."

Fiona offers a concierge service to her clients, using her wide experience of the building process to provide advice and support from the planning stage through to final completion.

"We provide building services from small extensions to full house build, but whatever the project; service is our priority. Sometimes something so simple as choosing kitchen tiles with a client can help a project go smoothly, but that is just part of the service we offer."

So as you ponder how you're going to accommodate the turkey and all your in-laws in your current dining room or worrying about where your guests will sleep over Christmas, it's worth considering that making extra room this New Year will enhance your living space for the whole year, give you plenty of room for guests next Christmas and increase your property value.



To find out more please contact Fiona Evans directly on 01656 849395 or 07866 769442 or visit www.aonebuilder.co.uk



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MORRISONS

CARWYN'S FIRST ENGAGEMENT HAS A TOUCH OF LOCAL HISTORY

PHOTOGRAPHS by
KEITH E MORGAN

THE first official engagement carried out by the new Welsh Assembly First Minister, Carwyn Jones, turned out to be in his own constituency – and it featured a strong strand of local history.

The Talbot Institute in Kenfig Hill had long planned to unveil three plaques relating to people who had contributed to its history, and plans were made well before the Bridgend AM decided to stand for his new position.

As the master of ceremonies on the night explained, it was very nearly the centenary of the institute. He told the invited guests: "Although the Talbot wasn't officially opened until 1911, we believe that work started towards the end of 1909."

He explained that the three plaques marked three significant occasions in the life of the Talbot.

He said: "The first is in memory of Emily Talbot of Margam, who had great feelings for the people of Kenfig Hill.

"She presented the Talbot Institute to Kenfig to give social intercourse and study, and to teach men to think. It was run by the miners, who provided a library, reading room, billiards and other activities."

He continued: "The second plaque is to commemorate the occasion when MP Ray Powell, as he then was, re-opened the institute following a complete renovation in March, 1987.

"Following several years of uncertainty, the Talbot was saved for the village, and this was due entirely to the enormous time and effort put in by Dick Power, Allan John Malcolm Williams and their colleagues.

"They then worked tirelessly to raise funds for the refurbishment of the Talbot."

He concluded: "The third plaque is to commemorate the completion of this work, and the re-opening by the new Welsh First Minister."



ABOVE:
Left to right –
Colin Teesdale,
Brian Landon,
Coun Pauline
James, Chair of
Pyle Community
Council, Janice
Gregory AM, Lady
Mary Powell,
Carwyn Jones AM,
Richard Sims.

LEFT:
First Minister,
Carwyn Jones, AM
for Bridgend,
unveils a plaque.



ABOVE: 3339 Brian Landon, CBE,
HM Chief Inspector of Mines (retired)
unveils one of the plaques.

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go to www.bridgend-today.co.uk or
www.porthcawl-today.co.uk



ABOVE: Sgt Mike Davies Neighbourhood
Policing Team with Coun Pauline James
and Elaine Peakman, Clerk to the Pyle
Community Council.



ABOVE: Lady Mary Powell, widow of the
late Ray Powell, MP, with her daughter
Janice Gregory AM for Ogmore.

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I WOULD like to start this column by wishing all the readers a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

NANTYMOEL RESIDENTS

I HAVE received a letter from Steve in which he states he is organising a trip to see the pantomime *Peter Pan* on Monday, December 28 at the Riverside Theatre, Newport.

For more information, telephone 07896 758811. The next meeting of Nantymoel Neighbourhood Watch is on Wednesday, January 13 at 7pm in Nantymoel Social Club; everyone is welcome.

ABERKENFIG DISCO

Aberkenfig Boys and Girls Club is holding a Christmas discotheque on December 18 in the clubhouse, Ynysawdre from 5.30pm-7pm. All children attending will receive a present from Father Christmas.

The club will be open on Saturday morning, December 19 between 9am-1pm, to allow Mums and Dads the chance to do Christmas shopping. The cost is £5 per head, which also includes free hot dogs. The club will then be closed from December 19 over the Christmas period until Friday, January 12, 2010.

CHOIR CONCERT

THE Blaengarw Male Voice Choir took part in the recent annual band concert at the Garw Valley Leisure Centre, to support the Poppy appeal.

Guests included Huw Irranca-Davies MP, Janice Gregory AM, Bridgend CBC mayor Jefferson Tildesley and consort Mrs Audrey Thomas and representatives of the Royal British Legion – president Peter Cole, chairman Windsor Williams and honorary secretary Dixie Dean, who was also master of ceremonies for the evening, together with the partner and relatives of Lance Corporal Dane Elson of the Welsh Guards, who was killed in Afghanistan.

There was also a standing ovation for Private Gary Wakefield, who had been severely wounded in Afghanistan.

The first half of the programme was taken up with music played by the South Wales Police Band and Corps of Drums.

Garw police on trail of the graffiti vandals

THE Neighbourhood policing team for Garw has been investigating an increasing amount of graffiti appearing on buildings, bus shelters and walls, including Blaengarw primary school.

Neighbourhood officers PC Chris Thomas and PCSO Janine Ireland have appealed to community counsellors and the street ambassadors for information.

PCSO Ireland said that young people in the area gave police a description and that a 17-year-old youth was later charged with an offence.

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM: If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me. I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: CLIVE MITCHELL
1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ
TEL: 01656 725399
email: tyncoed1@yahoo.co.uk



The internationally recognised harpist Eluned Pierce-Williams gave a wonderful presentation of traditional and classical music. These were joined by the varied repertoire of the Cor Meibion Cwm Garw.

Certificates of appreciation were presented to Mrs Barbara Cole and Mrs Annette Pickett (for 30 and 10 years respectively) of Poppy appeal collecting.

The remembrance service then followed, with the choir singing traditional soldiers' hymns, words of dedication by Windsor Williams, and an address by the Mayor. It closed with everyone singing the Welsh National Anthem *Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau*.

The choir will be singing at the Christmas carol service at St David's church, Pontcymmer on December 18.

It is prepared to sing at concerts throughout the Bridgend CBC borough to raise money for worthwhile charities. Please contact Mr Dixie Dean on 01656 870304 for more information.

SCHOOL CONCERT

Brynmennyn Primary School's classes 5-6 started the Christmas concert with a selection of seasonal songs (sung by the school choir).

This was followed with two pieces, Little Donkey and Jingle Bells, played by four violinists.

The scene, set by the narrators, was a mystical, tropical place where two tribes lived one each side of a river; the tribes were hostile to each other and lived in fear.

A film crew arrived and decided that in order to film both tribes, a bridge had to be built.

Both tribes knew that a bridge would mean war. In order to make peace between the tribes, a new born baby, the Peace Child, was offered from one tribe to the other. Instead of war there was rejoicing. A

simple well known message was delivered with dancing, singing and words of dedication.

This concert was another triumph for Brynmennyn primary, and full credit must be given to the class teachers Mrs Dale and Mr White.

PTFA

THANKED

Tynyrheol primary school, Llangeinor's headteacher Mr Martin Griffiths would like to thank the PTFA for the magnificent effort they have put in raising money for the school over the last few weeks; in the Christmas Fayre they raised £1052.99.

Over and above this they raised more money by selling glow sticks at the community fireworks display and organising a shopping trip to Bristol. The total was £1,500 for school funds.

Mr Griffiths is determined that the school is able to keep up with the technological progress that is going on world wide and he is using the money to provide the latest advances in projector and whiteboard technology throughout the school; also to upgrade the ICT suite to the latest advances in equipment.

If there are any companies in the Bridgend area that would like to help the school in providing the latest technology, I am sure Mr Griffiths would like to hear from them!

CAROL SINGING

TWO primary schools in the area covered by this column will be singing carols at the Bridgend Civic Offices, Angel Street before Christmas.

They are Plasnewydd primary on December 16 at 10.30am and Tondu primary on the 21st at 10am.

ME SUPPORT

ME Support, for sufferers of ME/CFS/PVFS can be obtained by contacting Chris Davies, secretary of the support group on 029 2076 2347.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

THE members of All Saints church, Penyfai, were enthralled at the recent concert given by the Maesteg Children's Choir, under musical director Enid-Sian Hughes, together with their accompanist Ryan Woods.

It was compèred by

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PORTHCAWL LIONS' TROLLEY DASH

Hyde family celebrate!



DELIGHTED winners of the Porthcawl Lions Annual Christmas Raffle, the Hyde family from Porthcawl, with their first prize, the groceries collected in a two-minute trolley dash round Somerfield.

The Hyde family from Porthcawl, with their first prize, the groceries collected in a two-minute trolley dash round Somerfield.

Also in the photo are Chris, duty manager of Somerfield, and Lions Andrew Collier and Joan Cosson, activities chairperson.

Porthcawl Lions would like to thank Somerfield for their help and co-operation and all those who supported the event by buying tickets. The raffle raised just over £1,000, half of which will go to Macmillan Cancer Support and half to local charities," said spokesman John Cosson.

News from the Sker WI

THE monthly meeting of Sker WI was held on December 10, at St David's Church Hall, Nottage.

The president, Nina Charlesworth, welcomed 63 members and one visitor to the meeting and thanked members for making the Christmas fayre so successful. November had been a busy month for the members of Sker WI.

Several members attended St David's Hall, Cardiff for the Glamorgan Federation's craft exhibition 'Deck The Halls'.

Members also attended the federation's carol festival at the Brangwyn Hall, Swansea, and as usual, this was an enjoyable event.

Social time started with a rendition of some popular carols. Then it was time for a fish and chip supper, supplied and delivered by Beales of Porthcawl.

The supper was a huge success. The extra calories had to be used up, so a line dancing session was an enjoyable way of dealing with the problem.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, January 14, 2010, when Mike Boyles will speak on 'Undertaking Betty'.

Ladies you are invited to join us. Come and listen to this intriguing talk.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all readers from Sker WI.

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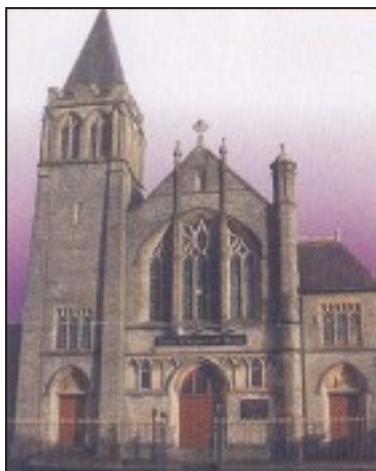




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OWEN E Jones & Co Ltd was founded in 1890 by Owen Jones as builders and funeral directors, serving the Llynfi Valley and surrounding areas.

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Although based in Maesteg, this family-run business has arranged funerals throughout south Wales and is always more than willing to provide transport for families to visit their recently refurbished Grade 2-listed Zoar Chapel of Rest.

Hywel has now retired, and the extremely high standards of service and professionalism lie comfortably in

Gareth's hands. Gareth has been conducting funerals for 20 years and believes attention to detail is of paramount importance when caring for and helping his bereaved families through the most difficult of times.

The company provides a traditional black fleet of vehicles, all under eight months old, providing high standards of safety and comfort.

As well as dealing with families who have suffered a bereavement at the present time, Gareth also offers free advice on pre-payment funeral plans and exclusively offers Golden Charter Funeral Plans.

The plans allow clients to take care of their own arrangements, and take the anxiety of organising a funeral away from loved ones and remove any financial burden from them.

If you would like to know more about pre-payment funeral plans or would like to visit Zoar Chapel of Rest to see the facilities there, please contact Gareth Watts on 01656 733167.

Hilary West – ‘flowers can provide solace’

THE death of a family member or friend is the saddest time. On these occasions flowers can provide solace and comfort.

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SOLICITOR Rhianon Cory has recently set up business as Castle Law, offering a very personal service handling wills, trusts, estate administration and elder law, including Lasting Powers of Attorney and Court of Protection matters.

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All services are tailor-made to match your requirements.

Contact Castle Law to arrange an appointment at your home or office, at your convenience.

Out-of-hours appointments can be arranged to suit you and your family.

A ‘GREEN FUNERAL’ CAN BE A REALLY POSITIVE CHOICE

CHOOSING a ‘green funeral’ is not only good for the environment, but it is a positive choice for the whole family; what is more, it couldn’t be simpler.

A green funeral is simply one that makes as little impact on the environment as possible; choose an earth-friendly coffin, such as the popular wicker coffins, and natural fabrics, such as cotton for clothes and linings – your local funeral director will be able to help you choose from a wide range of eco-friendly products that are now available.

Planning your funeral in advance can be a truly liberating experience, freeing you to concentrate on the future, family and friends.

For many, a green burial is the final part of a traditional funeral, where a local church service is followed by a memorial ceremony for close family and friends at a natural burial ground.

Others prefer a non-religious celebration of life and a less formal grave-side service. The important thing is that you have the choice to do what is right for you.

Show your family you care

IT is estimated that 70 per cent of the UK population have not made a will.

Many people are unaware that if they do not have a will in place, their estate will be governed by a complex set of laws.

By making a will, you get peace of mind, knowing that your wishes will be carried out and your family will benefit from your planning.

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For many of us, a wide scenic view is the ideal, while others prefer the intimacy of a woodland glade. By choosing a natural and beautiful place to rest, visiting can be an uplifting experience for loved ones – a place where nature can refresh them.

Natural burial grounds lift the duty of tending to the grave from a family. Visits are allowed in all weathers and in all seasons, with time spent in a beautiful, natural place.

The over-riding aim is to keep things as simple, natural and beautiful as possible, and contribute to a positive future.

For information on natural burial grounds in Wales, contact the Natural Death Centre, a charitable organisation giving independent advice on greener funerals by phoning 0871 288 2098, or visiting www.naturaldeath.org.uk



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Coping with loss at Christmas

For those who have recently lost a loved one, Christmas can be a particularly difficult time.

Joy Jones, a bereavement counsellor, explained: "Christmas is the time for close friends and family to come together and if one of those special people is missing, it just makes it all the more obvious they're gone."

She suggests that those

by Kate Hodal

grieving should try to embrace the holiday with an open mind and heart.

"Some people tend to panic at the thought of Christmas, as they do at birthdays or anniversaries."

One strategy that she suggests, although perhaps not for everyone, would be to revive some touching memories.

"I often suggest to families that everyone

write down a memory of the person on gift tags – something funny or touching that they did – which can then be hung across the hearth or on the tree.

"Then, on Christmas Day, you can go and look at those tags and remember how Mum or Dad used to do such and such, and, though it will be poignant, it will be a fond – not heartbreaking – memory."

Those tags can then be saved in a little box that,

after Christmas, can be opened and looked through.

Joy said: "This makes the loss a positive experience that can lift your spirits."

Bereavement experts say that you must do what you feel comfortable with at Christmas when you have lost a loved one. For some people a quiet time, rather than one of celebration might seem more appropriate."

Coun Ernest said:

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Schoolchildren bring festive cheer to town



ABOVE:
The Mayor of Cowbridge with Llanblethian, Coun Jon Harris and Mayoress Mrs Vi Harris are pictured welcoming children from Ysgol Iolo Morganwg, before the pupils sang Christmas carols outside the town hall.

YFCs compete in Pencoed public speaking competition

Photos by
HEATHER MARCH

COMPETITORS from the Young Farmers Clubs of Glamorgan met for a public speaking day at Pencoed College recently.

The braintrust competition was won by Maendy and the reading competition for under-14s (a new competition) was won by Bridgend.

Member of the year awards went to – senior Kay Lewis of Neath, and junior to Angharad Williams of Bridgend. These winners will now represent Glamorgan at Wales level.

A drama competition, to which all are welcome, will be held at the Princess Royal Theatre, Port Talbot on February 11-12. Tickets on sale in the New Year on 01656 864488.



Under-14 reading: winning Bridgend Team – Emily Watkins, David Rees and Evan Thomas with judges Kay Morgan and Catherine Stephens.



New upgrade opens up coastal path to elderly

THE £128,000 upgrade of a popular coastal footpath linking the cliff walk at Penarth with Lavernock, has been marked at an official ceremony.

"We must not overlook the benefits to the tourism economy of the Vale – where we now have thousands of visitors using not only this path, but also the hundreds of miles of other footpaths located across the area – and the financial returns this brings to local business, all of whom provide local jobs."

After cutting a ribbon to mark the occasion, Coun Ernest said the footpath would be officially named 'Telegraph Way' to mark the connection with Lavernock Point, from where Signor Gugliemo Marconi and George Kemp sent the world's first ever radio signals across water to Flat Holm.

Junior member of the year: 1st Angharad Williams of Bridgend, joint 2nd Rhys Edwards of Llantrisant and Hannah Turner of Gower. Here with judge Mark Williams of Gwent and this year's national vice-chairman, His co-judge was Heather March (who took the photograph !)



YOUTH FORUM'S WONDERLAND TRIP



(left to right): Phoebe, Georgia, Communities First development worker Michelle Sullivan, and Charlotte.

AS a 'thank you' to all members of the Gibbonsdown and Court Youth Forum, staff from the Communities First Partnership Board took the children on an ice skating trip to Cardiff Winter Wonderland.

Over the last few months, the forum have

organised all the marketing and promotion of the professional show, which will be showcased at the Hub in Barry on Wednesday, December 16, at 7pm.

Tickets are available from the Communities First office on 01446 732406.

SHARON TOPAZIO



ABOVE:

(left to right): Marcus, Jess, Charlotte, Communities First co-ordinator Sharon Topazio, Chloe, Georgia, Tia and Phoebe.

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Praise for town's parade

A SENIOR Penarth councillor has praised the "tremendous enthusiasm and effort" that went into this year's colourful and vibrant Christmas parade, which saw more than 100 people and young children take part in the firmly-established Sunday afternoon event.

Coun Anthony Ernest, who is chairman of the town council's festivals organising committee, said that the parade had been extremely successful in attracting hundreds of visitors to the town on what was a disappointing weather day.

He said: "I would like to thank all the traders who took part in making the annual Christmas event the success it was; the many children and young people who carried on despite the downturn in the weather; and especially all those who helped to put together and run the show on the day. It was a fantastic success."

"Local people have told me that they really enjoyed the day, and those local businesses that opened specially for the occasion were delighted by the response."

Jonze's Wild Things are enjoyable company!

HAVING taken us into the head of John Malkovich, and given us a film starring Nicolas Cage as a pair of twins, it was intriguing to see where Spike Jonze pitched up next.

However, despite the odd outing on music video directing duty and goofing around with his *Jackass* friends, it seemed Jonze was taking his time in bringing his next project to the big screen.

That wait is now over, as his take on Maurice Sendak's *Where The Wild Things Are* finally makes it into cinemas.

The children's story centres on Max (Max Records), a boy who is sent to bed by his mother (Catherine Keener) where he invents a magical world populated by ferocious creatures (voiced by, among others, James Gandolfini, Paul Dano and Chris Cooper).

Adopted by the creatures as their leader, Max soon starts to realise it isn't what he thought...

Adapting books for the big screen can be an undeniably fraught process – after all, try boiling down a 700-page book into a 120-minute film without losing the essence of the story.

For Spike Jonze and fellow scriptwriter Dave Eggers, the opposite was the case – given Maurice Sendak's original story stretched to around 300 words, just how exactly do you manage to main-

tain the core of the narrative while adding in enough to make it a feature-length film?

The answers that the pair have come up with may not suit all tastes, but *Where The Wild Things Are* is certainly a film that is both uniquely and indelibly Spike Jonze in spirit and feel.

The director stamps his identity all over the film, from the low-key yet gorgeous visuals to the eclectic soundtrack that fits in and out of the film when needed.

Much like Wes Anderson's take on *Fantastic Mr Fox* earlier this year, this is a children's film that feels far more aimed at adults than youngsters.

Both Jonze and Eggers do their best to give the character of Max a suitable back story (quick temper, broken family and a sense of being an outsider) and manage to locate the dark heart that lay at the core of Sendak's original tale.

The pair have great fun bringing the darkness to the end product; yes, the wild things themselves are cuddly of a sort, the Jim Henson Company doing a fantastic job in bringing these previously-only illustrated characters to wonderful life, but the scriptwriters give these characters a name, personality and a sensibility all of their own that often comes close to being more like their name.

Magnifying Max's attitudes and behaviour through these characters is a neat trick that may

not be keeping in tone with the source material, but at least allows the film to develop and deliver more substance.

It is one of many little additions made to give the film more depth and pad out such a threadbare story, but they work in fits and starts, the film starting to feel a touch leggy as it wraps itself up.

That isn't to take away from either Jonze's direction or the performances. Jonze brings a woozy visual feel to the film, lending it both a childlike simplicity yet also a keen eye for some beautiful shot compositions that both envelop and enrich the drawings of the original book, while the performances sit beautifully within the film.

Max Records gives a superb turn as the young runaway, capturing both the devilish attitude that gets him into trouble with a fresh naivety that slowly unravels as he finds himself getting embroiled ever more deeply into the world of the wild things; it is an accomplished turn for a burgeoning performer.

Lending their vocal talents to the titular characters, actors such as James Gandolfini, Chris Cooper, and Forest Whitaker all give wonderful performances, adding real nuance and matching the characters that are on screen superbly well.

Were it not for the paucity of source material, *Where The Wild Things Are* would be a superb film that looks at the complexities of growing up and fitting in – hardly child-friendly material, but presented in an engaging way.

Unfortunately, having to pad out the material to make a feature-length film works against Spike Jonze, leaving these wild things to be a pleasing, if a touch too lengthy, experience.

VERDICT – A solidly good, yet somewhat

SCREEN TALK



by GARETH JAMIESON

lacking, piece of work, *Where The Wild Things Are* suffers from the need to beef up its source material.

Wonderful direction from Spike Jonze and strong performances only just shore up the film's padded extras, but there are some joyful moments to be wrung from this intriguing film. Enjoyable.

Keep your eyes on Cameron's Avatar

Released today and certainly worth a mention is James Cameron's first film in 12 years, and first since the Oscar-grabbing *Titanic*, *Avatar*.

Billed as the film that will revolutionise cinema, it comes with up-to-the-minute computer generated effects and is presented in 3-D.

The film looks superb, telling the story of the attempts of the human race to mine the planet of Pandora for a mineral essential to their future, and coupled with Cameron's eye for strong storytelling and wonderful visual imagery it promises much – but will it make enough of an impact to feature in Screen Talk's fifth annual top 10?

Find out in two weeks' time, and have a great Christmas!

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Out and About with The GEM

FESTIVE DELIGHTS AT DINAS POWYS!



Far left, Alana Davies is pictured at the WI cake stand at the Dinas Powys autumn fair.

I WOULD be grateful if, through your newspaper, I could pass on my thanks to those involved in the Dinas Powys autumn fair – it was my first visit to this event, but it certainly won't be my last.

The atmosphere was one that I had thought no longer existed – and I don't just mean the

Candlelit carols

FAMILIES and children will be welcomed at 'Carols by Candlelight' on Christmas Eve at the church of Merthyr Dyfan in Merthyr Dyfan Lane, Colcot, Barry.

Beginning at 3.30pm, and lasting for approximately one hour, this will be an opportunity, particularly for children, to experience the true spirit of Christmas in the beauti-

wonderful smells wafting from the mulled wine stalls!

It was the lack of commercialism that impressed me so much. The stalls were full of home-made and handmade crafts, cakes and trinkets, mainly being sold to raise money for various charities.

There were variations on the tombola stalls, dancers in Welsh costume, and a very professional-sounding band playing all the tradition-

ful setting of this ancient church, which is one of the oldest Christian sites in Wales, believed to date from around the year 600," said Father Robert Parish.

He will be taking the service and singing will be led by members of the choir of St Paul's Church and organist Mary Smith.

Admission is free and there is car parking at the church.

On Christmas morning, there will be carols and sung Mass at Merthyr Dyfan Church at 8.45am.

Hairscope on York Place, Barry, is offering better than half-price blow dries all day today, and giving all the proceeds to Ty Hafan.

The fundraising effort has been inspired by a local boy who recently sacrificed his luxuriant locks to raise cash for the children's hospice.

Sixteen-year-old Henri Arrmelin from Hairscope's team are offering blow dries at head shaved at only £5 each today (Thursday, December

17) so customers can benefit from a great deal and know that all the proceeds will go to Ty Hafan.

Hairscope's owner, Maria Hajigeorgis, and part of the Asprou dynasty in Barry, whose brother was responsible for Henri's lost locks, said: "I think it's really amazing what Henri has done and he deserves our support. We're delighted to contribute."

To make a donation and boost the sum Henri raised for Ty Hafan further, send a cheque, payable to Ty Hafan to: The headmaster, Hair Today, Gone tomorrow, sponsorship co-ordinator, Westbourne School, Hickman Road, Penarth, CF64 2AJ.

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or contact the Glamorgan GEM on 01446 774484

THE RECTORIAL BENEFICE OF LLANTWIT MAJOR

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wishes you a blessed Christmas and joyful New Year
All are warmly welcome at any of our services this Christmas

CHRISTMAS EVE

St Illtud's, Llantwit Major	16.00pm	Crib Service
St James, Wick	18.00pm	Christingle Service
St Illtud's, Llantwit Major	18.30pm	Ecumenical Carols
St Illtud's, Llantwit Major	23.15pm	Midnight Eucharist
St Cattwg, Llanmaes	23.30pm	Midnight Eucharist
Holy Trinity, Marcross	23.30pm	Midnight Eucharist
St Tathan, St Athan	23.30pm	Midnight Eucharist

CHRISTMAS DAY

St Illtud's, Llantwit Major	8.15am	Eucharist
St Tathan, St Athan	8.00am	Eucharist
St Giles, Gileston	9.00am	Eucharist
St Donat	9.30am	Eucharist
St Mary, Monkash	9.30am	Eucharist
St Michael, Llanmihangel	10.00am	Communion
St James, Wick	10.15am	Eucharist
St Illtud, Llantwit Major	10.30am	Family Eucharist

'Think hard before buying festive pets!'

PETS bought as Christmas presents can be a recipe for disaster, with animals often neglected and owners left counting the cost of a badly chosen pet, according to veterinary charity PDSA.

"We all know the expression 'a dog is for life, not just for Christmas', but people continue to buy pets as gifts at this time of year," said senior veterinary surgeon, Elaine Pendlebury.

"We see the results of unwise pet choices every

year, and it often starts when someone decides to get a pet as a present.

"This is never a good idea because buying a pet is a serious commitment. Pets can make a wonderful addition to a home, but people need to think carefully to avoid making mistakes which can prove very costly, both emotionally and financially, for pets and owners alike."

For information on choosing a suitable pet and to find out what pets need, visit PDSA's online tool, 'Your Right Pet', www.your-right-pet.org.uk

Song for Guards in Afghanistan praised



MEETING singer/songwriter Rob Allen and the Welsh Guards at the Senedd was a "significant event" for Vale AM Jane Hutt, as she congratulated him on his initiative, backed by Mark Collard, to produce a hit song, 'Men of Harlech, Men of Cymru' to raise funds for the Welsh Guards in Afghanistan.

"I know our hearts and minds will be with those serving in Afghanistan this Christmas and I hope Rob Allen's new song will be a big hit," the AM said.

Barry service

A CHRISTINGLE service, this Sunday, December 20, at 4pm, for families and children heralds the coming of Christmas at the Barry church of St Paul's.

The collection taken at the service is given to support children in poor circumstances in Wales.

Introduced by the Children's Society some 30 years ago, Christingle is now a popular family event when each child receives an orange, representing the world, four cocktail sticks containing fruit and sweets for the four seasons, and a lighted candle, symbolising Jesus as the light of the world.

The traditional service of carols, midnight mass and blessing of the Christmas crib is at 11pm on Christmas Eve and on Christmas morning, carols, procession and sung mass is at 10am.

Contact Father Robert Parish on 01446 735943 for further information.

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2). LOWER PENARTH COMMUNITY CENTRE, Brockhill Way, (opp Spar), PENARTH, every MONDAY, starting JANUARY 11th, 8 - 9pm (Improvers 9 - 10pm)

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NEWS FROM BRIDGEND CHESS CLUB

BORG FAIL TO SLAY THE DRAGONS

BRIDGEND Borg continue to climb towards the top half of Division Two in the East Glamorgan Chess League, although they were held 2.5-2.5 at home by the Cardiff Dragons.

Only Jonathan Kell was able to assimilate his opponent. Any resistance by Australian Michael Arribas-Aylion proved futile, as Jonathan sealed a full point for the Borg. Mark Jones, playing on the top board, lost to Peter Ehsandar, a stronger player by some 200 grading points.

The remaining games all ended in draws as Mike Cram, Neil Stuart and Len Skinner shared the points with Paul Keenan, Steve Herkes and Gruff Jones respectively.

The Borg now sit proudly in third place. But with barely 5.5 points between them and a relegation berth, there is still a fair amount of chess to be played in this division yet.

The Bridgend Jedi relinquished their narrow half-point advantage at the top of Division Three, as they struggled against a strengthened Cardiff Crowns team, who themselves wanted to move from the bottom half of the table.

The Crowns, drafting in Peter Ehsandar and Nigel Granville on the top boards, proved more than a match for the Jedi. Kristian Prosser drew first blood, turning the tables on Andrew Trickey. Struggling early on having played a French defence, Prosser capitalized on a blunder from his opponent, winning a piece and eventually the game with his superior endgame ability.

The Jedi struck back with a double-blow. Damon Davies once again came from a piece down to maintain his 100 per cent record in this division.

Then on board three, Adam Howell put the Jedi ahead with a comfortable win over Jonathan Bold.

So it was down to the top boards to decide the fate of this contest. Nigel Granville and Sean Day swapped blows until they reached a rook and pawn endgame. Granville continually refused the offer of

a draw from Sean, as neither player could make headway. After a quarter of an hour of moving the same pieces, eventually Granville relented, realising he had no way of forcing the win against his wily Jedi counterpart.

In the final game, Mike Cram got into some time trouble against Peter Ehsandar. With even material and a draw position, Mike hoped East Glam rules may have awarded the draw. The game was given as a win for Peter, as he still had material that would be capable of winning the contest.

So the spoils were shared 2.5-2.5, with the Jedi slipping to second place behind the Barry Camelots.

East Glamorgan Chess League

Division 2

	P	Pts
Cardiff AJ's	9	27.5
Penarth Pirates	8	27
Bridgend Borg	9	23.5
Caerphilly Castles	8	23.5
Pentrych A	9	23
Cardiff Dragons	9	21.5
Nelson Rhinos	8	21
Penarth Piers	8	18
North Cardiff Woodpushers	9	18
Cardiff Cavaliers	9	12

Division 3

	P	Pts
Barry Camelots	9	29
Bridgend Jedi	9	28
Pontypridd Marauders	8	24.5
Pontypridd Phoenix	8	23.5
Barry Gambits	8	21.5
Caerphilly Knights	9	20
Penarth Barons	8	18.5
Cardiff Crowns	8	18
Porthcawl A	8	13.5
Pentrych B	9	13.5

ANDREW TRICKEY

Chess puzzle

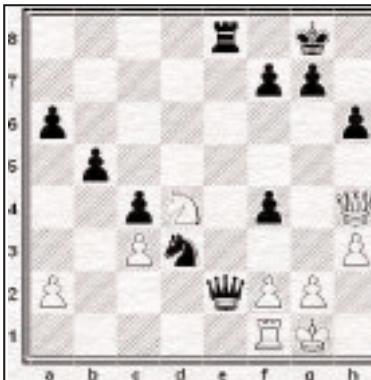
THE GEM has teamed up with Bridgend Chess Club to offer a new weekly competition. Solve the chess puzzle below and submit your entry to us. Each week there is a free month's membership to

Bridgend Chess Club up for grabs.

All puzzles entered between now and December 31, 2009 will enter a prize drawing to win a copy of *Starting Out: Chess Tactics and Checkmates by Chris Ward*.

Black to play - MATE IN TWO MOVES

Puzzle: BCC-007 Closing date for entries: 19/12/09 Entries to: The GEM, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge, CF71 7EL. Email entries to: andrew@bridgendchessclub.org.uk



Name

Answer To Puzzle

Email

Phone

Address

THE GEM - 3RD DECEMBER 2009

Answer: Puzzle BCC-005

1. Rx e5+ fx e5 2. Rx e5+ Bx e5

3. Nx e# No winner.

allowing the freedom to bond with their baby son," said chief officer Gordon Harrop.

"CHC members learned that opening the unit has increased the number of midwives and now includes those who have special interests in child protection issues, and a midwife who liaises with the Elan Team who look after vulnerable parents.

Facilities include five large modern bedrooms, two of which have ensuite facilities and two with double beds, plus a birthing pool.

On a recent visit, CHC members were invited to talk to two proud sets of parents. The first set of parents had recently moved from the Swansea area to the Vale and were very impressed with the care that they had received.

"The tranquil atmosphere was appreciated and one family were especially contented as the midwife was able to communicate with them in Welsh, their first language.

"They said that an added bonus for them was the double bed, a commendable way."

"Security seemed to be a high priority in the unit and, at a clinical level, all midwives are trained in resuscitation for adults and have a well equipped room for babies in distress," Mr Harrop added.

CHC chairman, Mrs Anita Morgan said: "It is imperative that services should be safe, but also very important that the patient experience should be as reassuring and normal as possible. The Llandough midwifery led unit is a visible example of these two requirements being met in a commendable way."

INFORMATION FOR THE FESTIVE SEASON - OPENING HOURS
from the Vale of Glamorgan Council

All main Council offices will be closed, except for pre-booked marriages at the Civic Offices, from Friday, 25 December, and will reopen on Monday, 4 January.

CONTACT ONEVALE Residents are reminded that the Council's customer contact centre, Contact OneVale, will be open for enquiries during the holiday period on 28, 29, 30 and 31 December between 8.30am and 4.30pm and for emergencies at all other times. Contact (01446) 700111, email CIV@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk or text CIV then your message to 60066.

REGISTER OFFICE Births, deaths, marriages and civil partnership may be registered by appointment only, at the Civic Offices in Barry (01446 709490) and at West House in Penarth (029 2070 7862) up until Thursday, 24 December; and, at the Civic Offices only, on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 29, 30 and 31 December. The office opening times are 9am-1pm and 2-4pm.

The Cowbridge office (9.30am-1pm) will also be open on Thursday, 24 December.

The Barry and Penarth offices will reopen on Monday, 4 January, the Llanwit Major office (9.30am-1pm) on Tuesday, 5 January, and the Cowbridge office on Thursday, 7 January.

SOCIAL SERVICES The following services will be closed on 24, 25 and 26 December 2009, and 1 January 2010:

Adult Placement Services • Children and Young People Services • Day Services at Rondel House (Barry) and Gardenhurst (Penarth) • Home Care • Occupational Therapy • Resource Centres • Social Work Teams, including the Hospital Social Work Service • Vale Alcohol and Drug Team • Youth Offending Team (an out of hours service to provide appropriate adults for PACE interviews between the hours of 8.30am-10pm available on all days, including Christmas Day, via the Emergency Duty Team).

All the above services will operate normal working hours throughout the remainder of December.

Meals on Wheels services will close on 25, 26, and 27 December; and 1 January. However, a limited meals service will be provided for those who normally receive a seven-day service on these days.

The Home Care Service, based at Hen Goleg, Barry, is operating from our out of hours base from 7am to 10pm at Cartref Porthcawl on 24, 25, 26, 27 and 28 December 2009 and 1 January 2010.

The remaining services, including Child Protection and Reviewing Unit - Day Services at Hen Goleg and Woodlands (Barry) - Flying Start will be closed 25 December, 2009, to 1 January, 2010, inclusive.

The Social Services emergency contact number when services are closed is the Emergency Duty Team on 029 2044 8360. You can also use this number for reporting any concerns about an adult or child who may be in need of protection.

LIBRARIES Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Boxing Day and Monday, 28 December

CLOSED

Tuesday and Wednesday, 29 and 30 December

OPEN AS NORMAL

Thursday, 31 December

OPEN (but closing at 4pm)

Friday, 1 January

CLOSED

REFUSE AND RECYCLING Only refuse and recycling collections on Christmas Day and New Year's Day will change during the festive period:

December	January		
Normal Collection	Revised collection	Normal Collection	Revised collection
Friday, 25 Dec	Sunday, 27 Dec	Friday, 1 Jan	Saturday, 2 Jan

There will be no change to collections on 24, 26, 29, 30 and 31 December.

Kerbside recycling - Please continue to use our free (kerbside) service to recycle all your paper, glass, cans, cardboard and plastic. Don't forget that garden waste can be collected on a 'ring and request' basis during the winter, and may be placed kerbside from 30 November, 2009, on the date and time given by the OneVale Call Centre.

Free Christmas tree kerbside collection - From 11-15 January, 2010, on your usual refuse collection day, we will be collecting Christmas trees for composting at a local farm. Please place all trees out with your rubbish by 7am. Please ensure all decorations are removed.

Household Recycling Centres - Our Household Waste Recycling Centres in Sully and Llandow will be closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day. Both sites are open 10am-4pm until the spring when extended summer opening times apply.

Telephone 01446 700111, email visible@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk or visit www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/recycle for further information.

For all emergencies, including highway matters, please contact the Council on (01446) 700111.

www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Midwifery unit gets approval

PATIENTS' watchdog, the Vale Community Health Council, has given a nod of approval to the midwifery-led unit at Llandough Hospital.

"It is imperative that services should be safe, but also very important that the patient experience should be as reassuring and normal as possible. The Llandough midwifery led unit is a visible example of these two requirements being met in a commendable way."

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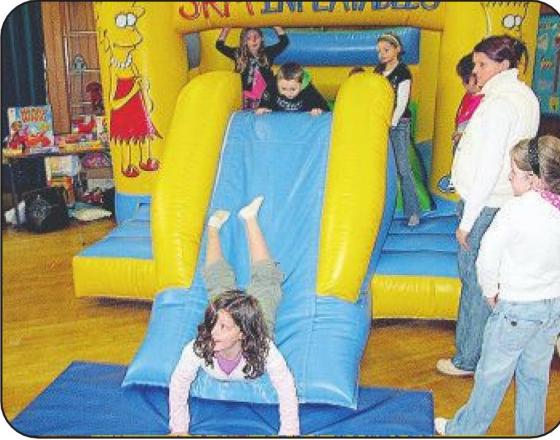
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Porthcawl Primary welcome special guest
**PUPILS GET A VISIT
 FROM SANTA AT THEIR
 CHRISTMAS FAYRE**



PHOTOGRAPHS by KEITH E MORGAN

A VERY well-attended Porthcawl Primary School Christmas Fayre was held recently, and the event was opened by Coun David Newton-Williams, accompanied by his wife, Coun Gaynor Newton-Williams.

RIGHT: Pupils had the opportunity to make themselves aquainted with St Nicholas himself.



LEFT:
 Coun David Newton-Williams gets finger-printed by PCSO Carl Westgate on the Police stall.



Rhydian brings his X-Factor to revamped Bridgend store

X-Factor finalist Rhydian Roberts was on hand earlier this month, to help officially re-open the Sainsbury's Superstore, following a major £8 million refit and expansion at Bridgend.

As part of the redevelopment, Sainsbury's has again provided the Neighbourhood Police Team with a dedicated office at the front of the store.

Neighbourhood Police Sergeant Carl Morgan said:

"Our local officers were at the opening celebrations and used the opportunity to promote crime prevention advice,



with particular emphasis on personal security when shopping and on autoclone, and our Christmas jingle bells initiative.

"We are very grateful to Sainsbury's, who have provided us with a

new police room in a joint initiative with South Wales Police, which will be of great assistance in providing our policing service and provide reassurance, both to retailers in the area, as well as to the public."

ABOVE:
 Pictured with Rhydian are (from left) Julie Anne Hill of Sainsbury's, PC Stuart Morgan, Sgt Carl Morgan, PCSO Lauren Dillon, and PC Paul Harward.

Marathon man Eddie offers his support to young homeless charity

THE last time comedian Eddie Izzard passed through south Wales, he was in the middle of his incredible multi-marathon run around the UK in aid of comic relief.

However, last week he called in on the local homelessness charity, Llamau, which works with young people in Bridgend, as well as other Welsh areas.

Eddie visited the charity's Cardiff head office and spent time chatting with the young people that Llamau supports, while on the Cardiff leg of his current tour 'Stripped'.

Staff and service users alike were entertained by Eddie as he found out more about Llamau's work with homeless young people and vulnerable women in Wales.

Eddie, who spent part of his childhood living in Wales and went to school in Porthcawl, has offered his support to Llamau's annual Christmas Gift Appeal, recognising that



ABOVE: Eddie Izzard talking to several of the people involved in the Llamau charity.

Christmas can be a difficult time for many people.

The appeal is asking local people to donate a gift for a young person this Christmas.

Danny (aged 17) said: "Last year, thanks to Llamau, I received my first Christmas present in six years.

"It meant so much to know that someone cared".

Llamau's chief executive, Frances Beecher,

said "This year we hope to replicate the support we received last year both in financial contributions and with the donation of gifts.

"We would like to thank Eddie Izzard for helping us with our appeal. To know that someone of his standing is interested in our young people and the work that we do is incredible".

On Sunday, Eddie picked up a special

BBC award at 'Sports Personality of the Year' for his achievement in completing 43 marathons in 51 days on behalf of Sports Relief.

Llamau works with young homeless people in the area, but the appeal is being co-ordinated at its head office in Cathedral Road, Cardiff. For information on donating gifts, telephone Rachael on 029 2023 9585 or email rachalminchinton@llamau.org.uk

School's Christmas fayre helps UK troops abroad!



ABOVE and BELOW:
 The supporting British troops stand was busy.

PORTHCAWL Comprehensive was a hive of activity recently for the school's Christmas fayre.

Among the stalls was a team from Porthcawl RNLI, and also very busy was the table for 'Help for Heroes' – the appeal to send home comforts to British troops overseas.

Heather Deeks, who runs the local section of the appeal, told The GEM: "The pupils at Porthcawl Comprehensive have been really helpful.

"They have spent a great deal of time wrapping up parcels to be sent to the troops."



LEFT:
 The DJs kept the music playing.

**PHOTOS BY
 KEITH E
 MORGAN**



Season's Greetings



Andrew RT Davies AM
Welsh Conservative Assembly Member
for South Wales Central

Best wishes for a
Merry Christmas



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Website: www.andrewtdavies.com

Email: andrewRT.davies@wales.gov.uk

A very
Happy
Christmas
and
New Year
from
**JANE
HUTT**



**National Assembly
Member
for the
Vale of Glamorgan**

To contact Jane telephone
(01446) 740981
or write to
115 High St, Barry. CF62 7DT



**Councillor
Emlyn Williams**

The Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan Council
extends Seasons Greetings to all
residents of the Vale of Glamorgan.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Mae'r Cyngorydd Emlyn Williams

Faer Vyngor Bro Morgannwg, yn estyn Cyfarchion yr Wyl i holl
drigolion y Fro.

Nadolig Llawen a Blwyddyn Newydd Dda

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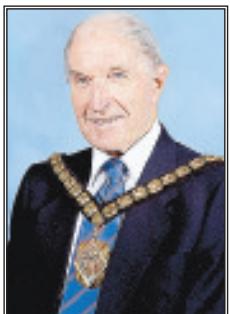
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Tuesday 29th December

Closes 1pm 31st December & 1st January
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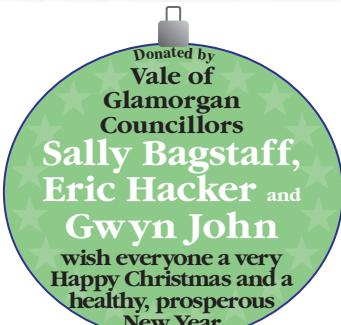


Cyfarchion y Tymor Season's greetings

★ Yn hytrach nag anfon cerdyn, rydym yn ysgrifennu ein cyfarchion ar y poster hwn ac yn rhoi arian i'r NSPCC a ChildLine. Gallai pob £3 ateb galwad plentyn am gymorth.

Instead of sending a card, we are writing our festive messages on this poster and donating to the NSPCC and ChildLine. Every £3 could answer a child's call for help.

As a result of the advertisers' support and The GEM's 'card-free zone' donation, this page has donated £160 to the NSPCC.



CHRISTMAS PUDDING RACE IS A TEST OF STAMINA AND CHARACTER IN THE DUNES

THIS year's Christmas Pudding Race, organised by Brackla Harriers in the sand dunes at Mervyr Mawr, attracted more than 600 runners.

As usual, the 10k race began with a stamina-sapping slog up the 'Big Dipper' – thought to be the biggest sand dune in Europe.

First home in the men's race was Rob Atkins in 36 minutes, 40 seconds, winning by five seconds from Hugh Aggleton of Cardiff Harlequins.

First in the women's race, in 42 minutes, 22 seconds, was a runner from another Cardiff club, San Domenico, Sally Haselhurst.



*ABOVE: What goes up must come down.
Running back down the dunes when tired is a real test of balance!*



*ABOVE:
This stream was deeper than I expected!*



A long climb up the 'Big Dipper' is a tough start to the run!

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

Other pictures are available from this event.

Pictures can be purchased by contacting:
e-mail glyn.evans01@tiscali.co.uk
telephone 01446 773225.

*Now open in the Wool Barn,
Verity's Court, Cowbridge.

HIGH STREET CHRISTMAS LIGHT SWITCH ON - A BIG SUCCESS DESPITE THE RAIN

PHOTOGRAPHS
by IAN DIXON



As was reported in last week's GEM, it was a special night when Barry High Street turned on the Christmas lights, as these further photographs by Ian Dixon show very clearly!



THERE was a packed clubhouse for the annual presentation evening held recently at RAF St Athan Golf Club.

Club president Paul Lindsay conducted the proceedings with the club captain Steve Higgins and ladies captain Liz Thomas presenting the trophies. Of the many trophies awarded each year, the most prestigious are the championship titles and the Kyle Trophy.

The Kyle Trophy goes to the member who fulfills the following criteria: (a) achieves a significant handicap reduction, (b) achieves a deal of

success in all competitions entered, (c) in the opinion of the committee has been an example to all golfers both on and off the course.

Again, as in previous years, there were several members who fell into the above category but junior member Ethan Allison successfully carried of the trophy.

For the second consecutive year, Josh Hill played in the junior championship final. Runner-up last year, he fought well and defeated Kyle Bladen in one of the best matches to watch on finals day.

The Ladies championship saw Jayne Williams play Carrie Briggs and Carrie

RIGHT:
Club captain Steve Higgins and Ethan Allison, winner of the Kyle Trophy.



LEFT:
Club champion BJ Hawkins and president Paul Lindsay.

proved that she was back on form after recent injury and sealed the victory.

There was rapturous applause from the floor for Ben Briggs and BJ Hawkins, the Club Championship competitors. Both players must be congratulated for the tremendous match they played over 36 holes, which saw BJ retain the club champion title.

Husband and wife Steve and Doreen Kenyon were recognised for their tireless contributions to the club throughout the year and were delighted to be named 'Club Persons of the Year 2009'.



Ladies captain Liz Thomas with ladies champion Carrie Briggs.



Ben Briggs.



Club persons of the year, Steve and Doreen Kenyon.



Kyle Bladen and Josh Hill.

Bethany's festive card gets off to Flying Start!



ABOVE:
Bethany Kinman,
designer of this
year's Festive Start
Christmas card is
pictured here with
children and staff of
Dechrau'n Deg.

News in brief

Christmas party

THOMSON'S Travel in Cowbridge is holding a Christmas party on December 23 from 11am.

Mince pies and sherry – any donations go to the 'Family Holiday Association', which provides holidays for needy families.

Help for Heroes

Supermarkets in Llantwit Major has raised money for servicemen who have been injured in recent conflicts.

The business donated drinks and a hamper as raffle prizes, and was able to give Help for Heroes a cheque for £479.

GORCHYMYN CYNGOR
BRO MORGANNWG 2009 (DROS DRO)
(FFORDD GYSWLLT DOCIAU'R BARRI
(A4231), Y BARRI)
(CYFNGU CYFLYMDRA I 30 M.Y.A., GWAHARDD
TROI I'R DDE A THRO PEDOL)

Ar 17 Rhagfyr 2009, yr oedd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, gan arfer ei bwerau o dan adran 14(1) Deddf Rheoli Traffig 1984 a phob p_ei galluogi arall, wedi gnewud Gorchymyn i ddibenion cyffredinol sydd wedi'u nodi yn yr Atodlen isod.

Daw'r Gorchymyn i rym ar 18 Rhagfyr 2009 neu gyn gynted ag y bydd yr holl arwyddion angenreidiol wedi'u gosod os na fyddant yn eu lle'n brydion. Cewch wedi copi o'r Gorchymyn yn y cyfeiriad isod yn ystod orlau arferol swyddfa.

Os hoffech ddadlau'r erbyn y Gorchymyn neu'i ddarpariaethau am na chredwch fod gan y ddeddf uchod b_ei'r gweithredu, neu am y tybiwn eu bod yn methu a chydymdu a gofynnol y ddeddf uchod un o'i hofferynnau, bydd gennych chw ywthnos o 18 Rhagfyr 2009 i wneud cais i'r Uchel Lys i'r diben hwnnw.

ATODLEN 1

1. Ni fydd hawl i neb yr yrru na chaniatâu i neb arall yr yrru'n gyflymach na 30 milltr yr awr yn y manau sydd wedi'u nodi yn Atodlen 2 isod.

ATODLEN 2

Lleoliad Bydd y Gorchymyn yn berthnasol i Ffordd Gyswilt Dociau'r Barri (A4231) rhwng y gyffordd â Cardiff Road (A4055) a'r gyffordd â Port Road y Barri (A4050).

Bydd Gorchymyn Cyngor Bro Morgannwg 2005 (Ffordd Gyswilt Dociau'r Barri A4231) (Cyfngu Cyflymdra i 30 m.y.a.) yn cael ei atal yn ystod y gwaith hwn.

Rheswm Gwneud gwaith angenreidiol i wella'r ffordd a'r holl waith sy'n gysylltiedig â hyrn.

Cyfnod 18 mis ar y mwyaf o ddydd Llun 4 Ionawr 2010 (06:00) ymlaen, neu hyd nes y bydd yr arwyddion '30 m.y.a.' wedi'u tuynn.

ATODLEN 3

2. Ni fydd hawl i neb droi i'r dde na chaniatâu i neb arall droi i'r dde wrth yr yrru yn y manau sydd wedi'u nodi yn Atodlen 4.

ATODLEN 4

Lleoliad Y troad i'r dde o Ffordd Gyswilt Dociau'r Barri (A4231) i Coldbrook Road, y Barri.

Ffordd Arall Gyrwch i gyfeiriad y de-ddwyrain at gylchfan wrth ymyl y gyffordd â Cardiff Road (A4055). Gwneuch dro pedol wrth y gyffordd honno, gyrwch yn ol ar hyd Ffordd Gyswilt Dociau'r Barri (A4231) a thrwch i'r chwth i Coldbrook Road.

Lleoliad Y troad i'r dde o Argae Lane i Ffordd Gyswilt Dociau'r Barri (A4231).

Ffordd Arall Gyrwch i gyfeiriad y de-ddwyrain at gylchfan wrth ymyl y gyffordd â Cardiff Road (A4055). Gwneuch dro pedol wrth y gyffordd honno, gyrwch yn ôl ar hyd Ffordd Gyswilt Dociau'r Barri (A4231).

Lleoliad Y troad i'r dde o Ffordd Gyswilt Dociau'r Barri (A4231) i Argae Lane.

Ffordd Arall Gyrwch i gyfeiriad y goledd-orllewin at gylchfan wrth ymyl y gyffordd â Gilbert Lane/Trem Y Coed. Gwneuch dro pedol wrth y gyffordd honno, gyrwch yn ôl ar hyd Ffordd Gyswilt Dociau'r Barri (A4231) a thrwch i'r chwth i Argae Lane.

Rheswm Gwneud gwaith angenreidiol i wella'r ffod a'r holl waith sy'n gysylltiedig â hyrn.

Cyfnod 18 mis ar y mwyaf o ddydd Llun 4 Ionawr 2010 (06:00) ymlaen, neu hyd nes y bydd yr arwyddion 'Dim i'r Dde wedi'u tuynn.

ATODLEN 5

3. Ni fydd hawl i neb newid cyfeiriad na chaniatâu i neb arall newid cyfeiriad drwy droi ei gerbyd yn y manau sydd wedi'u nodi yn Atodlen 6.

ATODLEN 6

Lleoliad Ffordd Gyswilt Dociau'r Barri (A4231) o'r gylchfan wrth y gyffordd â Cardiff Road (A4055) i'r gyffordd â Coldbrook Road.

Rheswm Gwneud gwaith angenreidiol i wella'r ffod a'r holl waith sy'n gysylltiedig â hyrn.

Cyfnod 18 mis ar y mwyaf o ddydd Llun 4 Ionawr 2010 (06:00) ymlaen, neu hyd nes y daw'r gwaith i ben.

Dyddiedig 17 Rhagfyr 2009.

M. Punter,
Penneth Gwasanaethu Gweladwy
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg,
Canolfan yr Alpau, Gwenfô, CF5 6AA.

Cowbridge downhill skier Sam is on the way up!



Sam racing towards one of the gates during a recent event.

THIS year has ended with a flourish for local sixth-former Sam Stephens, who only took up competitive skiing in 2006.

In that short period of time, he has successfully managed to combine his studies with training, both at the Cardiff Ski Club and at various training camps in the Alps, thanks to the support of the staff at Cowbridge Comprehensive School.

Ski racing is a highly technical sport and participation in this country is mainly based on numerous plastic slopes around the country. However, indoor facilities are becoming more commonplace and races are gradually moving to that more realistic surface. Indoor races on the plastic slopes vary in

length, dependent on the length of the slope and the difficulty of the course, but generally are between 15 and 25 'gates' in length. One slip over two scoring runs can result in disqualification and a wasted weekend.

Cowbridge Comprehensive School has supported ski racing for many years and produced a number of successful racers. Despite coming into the sport late, Sam has made a real impact.

In this, only his fourth year of racing, he has completed 14 events, winning his age group (under 17's) in nine of them!

He has also won his age group in the British Championships (finishing 9th overall), the Celtic Cup series of races and the British Schoolboys Championships.

Sam was overall winner of the Welsh Schoolboys Championships (despite only being lower sixth and finished second overall in the British Schoolboys

Championships. This Christmas Sam is off to the Alps, but not for turkey and festive pudding – more a large slice of downhill training.

Charity ball raises £3,500



ABOVE: Ellie Campbell, Sarah Cornelius, and Grace Shaw.

VALE students
Grace Shaw and Ellie Campbell raised £3,500 when they organised a charity ball on November 20 at the Bear Hotel,

Cowbridge for the Joshua Foundation and Oz experience.

This project is designed to provide young people with the opportunity to change the lives of children with terminal cancer.

Grace and Ellie were sincerely grateful to Sarah Cornelius, the founder of the Joshua Foundation in joining them on the night and speaking on behalf of the foundation.

Grateful thanks to all the High Street traders who donated fantastic gifts for the raffle and auction, and a special thanks to all who supported and attended the night, making it a great success!

PS

TOP AWARD FOR V2C CARETAKERS

V2C community caretakers Gareth Weston, Melvin Williams and Jason King recently won the accolade of Housing Heroes at the Welsh Housing Awards, organised by the Chartered Institute of Housing at Mercure Holland House Hotel in Cardiff.

Gareth Weston said: "We do a job we love, where small changes can make a big difference in improving communities. We get a lot of satisfaction and instant gratification from our job, not just with the work we do, but also from seeing residents' faces when we are able to help them."

The Housing Hero award celebrates the unsung heroes of the Welsh housing world, and is given to special individuals whose passion, enthusiasm and commitment has made housing a vibrant and caring sector.

A spokeswoman stated: "Initially employed to deal with the physical appearance of V2C estates, Gareth, Melvin and Jason quickly established their value as outstanding ambassadors for V2C, identifying issues of local importance in our communities and discussing solutions with residents."

"They help out at weekends where there are special events in communities, and have a deservedly high reputation with local residents."

KENFIG HILL RUGBY ROUND-UP

The Mules First XV sweep aside Treherbert in Cup

KENFIG HILL
First XV visited Treherbert for the first time in many years, and for the first time in weeks were blessed with a dry day for this second round SWALEC Plate game.

Treherbert took the lead with a penalty by outside half J Evans within minutes of the kick off, but the lead was short lived as the Mules went on the offensive.

A Treherbert clearance kick was cleared down by centre Alex Pearce, the ball was picked up by number 8 Derwyn Rees, who side-stepped his way past the covering defence to score.

Kenfig went back on the attack from the kick off and left winger Kyle Evans showed a clean pair of heels to the home defence to score in the corner.

Evans repeated the dose minutes later with his second try and almost had his hat-trick in this period, but was flagged by the Kenfig Hill touch judge when he unluckily put his foot on the line when side-stepping his opposite number.

Treherbert regained their composure and exerted considerable pressure on Kenfig, keeping the ball with their forwards, but the Mules' defence was solid, with Nicky Morgan and Scott Hancock in particular standing out.

Kenfig Hill turned over the ball close to their line and attacked, speeding upfield with Rees finishing off with his second try, outside half Ray Evans converting.

This gave a half time score of Kenfig Hill 27 Treherbert 3.

Kenfig started the second half with a bang when centre Nicky Morgan made a break and passed to fellow centre Alex Pearce to score.

After this, Kenfig

sat back and, try as they might Treherbert could not penetrate the Mules' defence. The game was finished off with a superb solo effort by back row substitute Dai Quinn, who took the ball at the tail of a lineout on the 10-yard line and beat a packed opposition defence on his way to score under the posts, Evans converting.

This gave a final score of Kenfig Hill 39 Treherbert 3.

Centre Nicky Morgan gave a man of the match display for the Mules, with hooker Lee Williams again giving an outstanding display leading the forwards.

Scrum half Mark Jenkins also gave a first class display.

Seconds out in cup clash

Kenfig Hill Seconds 17 Llanharan 31

This was a pulsating District Cup game which finished 17 - 17 at full time and had to go into extra time where Llanharan emerged victorious.

Kenfig Hill scored two tries through Chris Jenkins and Owen Attwood, with Nicky Giles (playing his first game after a lengthy lay-off through injury) putting over two conversions and a penalty.

Gareth Russell had an outstanding game for the Mules with Rhys Stanton, Steve Burnett and Nicky Giles all playing exceptionally well.

Kenfig Hill/Cornelly Youth 22 Trebanos 17

This was another good performance by the Youth, defeating a well-organised Trebanos side.

Dai Matthews, Lewis Morgan and Rhys Miles scored a try each and captain Shaun Burnell put over two conversions and a penalty.

There were good performances by Ryan Stanton, Callum Matthews and Lewis Morgan, with one leave



ABOVE:
Scrum half Mark Jenkins making a telling pass.

Royal Naval Seaman Matthew Keylock giving his customary high-level performance.

Former Kenfig Hill player Dai Lake made his refereeing debut at this level of rugby. All bodes well for his future as a custodian of the whistle, as top international referee Derek Bevan also made his debut refereeing Kenfig Hill/Cornelly Youth in the Marl Clarke Sevens.

Mini-rugby

Kenfig Hill under-8s v Bridgend Sports

Kenfig Hill under-7s v Bridgend Sports

The under-7s continued the high standard set by their elders.

Leading by example, captain Joshua Jones encouraged his team to make one more determined effort, pulling away from a six-all score at one point in the second half to eventually finish 10 - 7 winners.

There were three outstanding performances from the youngest Mules: Dafydd Jones was absolutely everywhere throughout the game, picking up an impressive hat-trick; Liam Evans recorded his first-ever try, covering the length of the field with such pace that even 21-year-old (!) referee Darren Underhill was left in his

link play and lovely ball handling.

The under-8s have matured as a team in the last few weeks, recording some confidence-building wins but more importantly developing their rugby skills and team spirit.

Kenfig Hill under-7s v Bridgend Sports

The under-7s continued the high standard set by their elders.

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There were three outstanding performances from the youngest Mules: Dafydd Jones was absolutely everywhere throughout the game, picking up an impressive hat-trick; Liam Evans recorded his first-ever try, covering the length of the field with such pace that even 21-year-old (!) referee Darren Underhill was left in his

wake; and three-try Alex Underhill, who seems effortlessly able to find space and race into it.

George Buckley and Jack Davies (two) rounded off an impressive try-scoring performance from the under-7s.

Charging runs also came from powerhouses Thomas Llewellyn and Conor Jenkins, matched by the smoother but equally effective style of Ewan Davies and Ewan Orchard.

Mark Underhill and Oliver Pinches caused chaos in the opposition defence with their combination of speed and defence-beating side-steps, something which Welsh crowds will always be pleased to see.

Coaches Matthew, Phil and Darren congratulate all of the under-8s and under-7s on their achievements in 2009 and look forward to continuing their rugby journey in the New Year.

GO'S

Connor led the under-8s to their third victory in the last five outings, winning an outstanding game by seven tries to five.

Impressive all-round play was evident from Cameron Treherbert, not only picking up a try but providing the link in almost every aspect of the young Mules play.

Combined with the skill of Oliver Roberts, the two made defensive duties hard work for the opposition.

Feeding off their colleagues to score a try each were Kieran Tantum and Jack Rundle. However, running in three scores with impressive touch-line speed and balance was the excellent Harry Cooper.

Once again Tom Watkins and Dylan Pearson maintained a robust defensive line, which enabled Calvin Gorringe to continue making a nuisance of himself each time the Sports had possession.

Providing the balance between defence and attack were Connor John, Luke Tozer and Rhys Perry, each demonstrating fantastic

Pencoed under-9s outlast Pontypridd

After last week's hard-fought win over Bridgend Athletic, Pencoed under-9s travelled to Pontypridd, Rhondda Cynon Taf's strongest side.

Although conditions were fair, it was still heavy underfoot. Ponty started the better, hitting the contact area with greater force and purpose, which saw them put together a good period of pressure resulting in a try.

Pencoed then had their turn pressuring the home defence. Ponty's tackling was excellent and it took an interception from Sam Costelow on the half-way line to make matters even.

Jack Rowlands and Ben Humphries continued to develop their defensive game with some excellent tackles which helped Pencoed get back into the game.

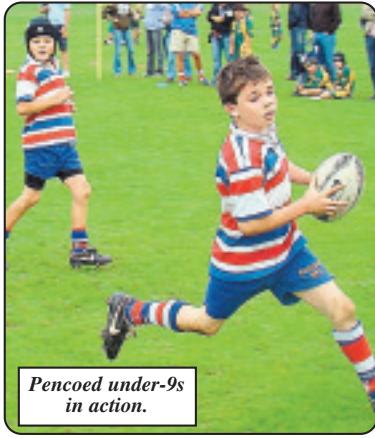
With help from Thomas Bending, Jonathan Carr and Oliver Lewis, Sam Costelow was given space and with a jinking run went over to give the visitors a 2-1 lead.

Pontypridd are a formidable side and with a well-worked forwards' move they levelled the match before the break.

As the match continued Pencoed stepped up a gear. Rhys Spurgeon, Mikey Bosley, Owain John and Cael Chamberlain were relentless at the rucks and mauls and Pencoed began to get on top.

Oliver Lewis broke the deadlock when he raced away from a ruck and went over in the corner.

When Mikey Bosley, with a quick pick up, drove the cover defence back five metres and stretched out to ground the ball you could see victory in the eyes of the youngsters.



Pencoed under-9s in action.

Now they began to show their style and passed the ball from side to side with Tyron Harding testing the wings time after time.

Rhys Bending, Ben Humphries and Owain John put together a passing move which allowed Jonathan Carr to complete a tremendous comeback with Pencoed's fifth try.

This was another all-round great team performance from this group of unbeaten youngsters. Owain Johns was tenacious in shrugging off a few injuries and was rewarded with man of the match.

Jinking runs by Jonathan Carr and Sam Costelow wowed the crowd and great forward work especially those fabulous Bending boys in their support play, assured a remarkable win.

The return fixture towards the end of the season is one not to miss!

Team: Cael Chamberlain (captain), Mikey Bosley, Rhys Spurgeon, Owain Johns, Sam Costelow, Ben Humphries, Thomas Bending, Rhys Bending, Oliver Lewis, Jonathan Carr, Jack Rowlands.

MB

The Saints pip Taverners in Cup

THE Tudor Taverners arrived at St Athan totally motivated for this cup game after The Saints' victory over them in the league a month ago, and they welcomed back several players and seemed hell bent on revenge.

The Tudor gave the

home side a scare when a corner into the box flashed across the six-yard box and was shot over. The wake-up call didn't come, however, and The Saints were caught cold moments later when Cook finished well to put them one up.

A couple of minutes later, a long ball wasn't dealt with and a great finish doubled the lead to stun the Saints, and they trudged off at half-time with a mountain to climb.

The Saints started the second half superbly and soon found themselves level, only for the Tudor to retake the lead after an own goal.

This was a cruel blow for The Saints, but a further blow came when Cook picked the ball up on the edge of the area and fired the ball past McDonald to restore the Tudors' two-goal cushion.

The Saints threw caution to the win, and were rewarded with two goals, taking the game into extra time.

The Saints were in the ascendancy, and despite Tudor hitting the bar, grabbed the final goal of a pulsating encounter to send them through to the next round of the Bridgend and District Sunday league cup.

HYWEL DARK

Who wants to build what and where?

Mr Matt Swindles - **The Old Garage, Laleston, Bridgend** - one internally illuminated double-sided free standing display unit.

J & S Developments - **land rear of 25 and 27 Old Las, Pencoed** - modular building to be

used by young people to access educational and information services.

Harris Property Dev Ltd

- **16-18 Mary Street, Porthcawl** - replace

skylight window with full length door.

Mr M Williams - **5 Bryn Awl, Bryntirion, Bridgend** - ground floor extension to rear.

Mr M Hobbs - **2 Easterly Close, Brackla, Bridgend** - kitchen extension with additional cloakroom and new garage to side and conservatory to rear.

Mr G Maund - **50 Maendy, North Cornelly** - garage, entrance porch, conservatory and utility room extension.

Mr T Hay - **7 Hollyhock Drive, Brackla, Bridgend** - proposed extension to side over garage and two storey extension to rear.

Mr K Morgan - **3 Browning Close, Brackla, Bridgend** - single storey extension detached garage, change hip roof to gable and provide attic room.

Mr T Young - **Bungalow r/o 250 New Road, Porthcawl** - full first floor extension to existing bungalow.

Mrs M Griffiths - **17 Wimborne Road, Pencoed** - single storey bedroom/en-suite extension.

Mr G Leyshon - **41 Fairfield Road, Brackla, Bridgend** - single storey extension.

Church in Wales Llandaff Diocesan Office - **St Michael's and All Angels Church, Church Place, Maesteg** - remove and dispose of two front pews and reposition rails to the front.

Brackla, Bridgend - proposed extension to side over garage and two storey extension to rear.

Mr K Morgan - **3 Browning Close, Brackla, Bridgend** - single storey extension detached garage, change hip roof to gable and provide attic room.

Mr D Morgan - **The Cross Inn, Maesteg Road, Maesteg** - conversion of detached garage into micro brewery.

Propdev (UK) Ltd - **Chapel Mews, Chapel Street, Bridgend** - refurbishment including open plan office over two floors with mezzanine level and screen walling with parking.

Compute (Bridgend) Ltd

- **33 Caroline Street, Bridgend** - proposed refurbishment and alterations.

Compute (Bridgend) Ltd

- **33 Caroline Street, Bridgend** - proposed refurbishment and alterations.

Church in Wales Llandaff Diocesan Office - **St Michael's and All Angels Church, Church Place, Maesteg** - remove and dispose of two front pews and reposition rails to the front.



ABOVE:
Outside half Ray Evans makes a break.
(Photographs by Peter Gilling).

POLICE YOUTH ARE ON TOP FORM AT MAESTEG CELTIC

SOUTH Wales Police Youth travelled to Maesteg to overcome a battling Celtic Youth team who, to their credit never gave up.

However, the Police started quicker and kept Celtic firmly in their own half for the first quarter of the game. They scored two tries and a conversion, with the tries coming from live-wire scrum-half Callum Williams and in-form back row forward Aled Roberts. Craig Davies added the conversion.

Some good clearing out at the ruck by pack leader Mathew Jones and No8 Will Thomas

saw the ball quickly moved to the backs for full-back Jack Evans to hit the line at speed and put a well-timed kick for winger Dan Harris to collect and dive over.

The next try saw outside-half Craig Davies go on a solo run to go over for a well-deserved try. He also added the extra two points.

Poor discipline again could have seen the Police concede points but a solid defence line kept Celtic at bay.

Just before the stroke of half-time, Maesteg Celtic put their first points on the board with a well-taken penalty.

Throughout the first half, the Police centre partnership of Lee Roderick and Hywel Roberts looked danger-

RIGHT:
Police captain
Lee Roderick
on another
strong run .

ous with ball in hand.

In the second half, the Police were slow out of the starting blocks and again ill-discipline saw them give away too many penalties.

Strong running by Russell Gurdin and Josh Thomas saw the Police constantly attacking the Celtic line, but the defence held.

The introduction of replacement second row Ashley Berrys seemed to lift the tired Police pack and a big drive upfield saw the Police go through several phas-



Celtic 3, South Wales Police 29.

es of play before the ball was collected by scrum-half Callum Williams, who again took the option to go blind and force his way over to get his second. Final score: Maesteg

BS



ABOVE:
Outside Half Craig Davies attacks
the gap with back row Aled Roberts
in support.
(Photographs by Gareth Davies.)

It's back to the drawing board for Police Firsts

SOUTH WALES POLICE RFC 11 - BAGLAN 27
THE Police welcomed Baglan to Waterton Cross for this Division Five fixture.

The form the Police found at the start of the season seems to have disappeared and they needed to get back to winning ways. However, from the start it was obvious that today wasn't going to be their day

The visitors always looked dangerous in attack and solid in defence. In contrast, the Police showed a lack of composure on the ball, struggled to hold on to the possession they were winning, and lacked the patience to build on the few chances that came their way.

For the Police, outside-half Ryan Miles slotted over two penalties to try to keep them in the game. In-form hooker Karl Davies added a solitary try but it was Baglan who came away with the deserved win.

The Police will look at this fixture as another game that got away and it will be back to the drawing board for the coaching staff and players to see what's needed. Next up for the Police is a visit to Hirwaun which is a 'must win' fixture.

Prominent for the Police were Chris Price, James Davies along with Miles and Davies.

BRYNCETHIN MINI AND JUNIOR RUGBY ROUND-UP

Youngsters are happy to be back in action after lengthy autumn lay-off

Under-8s

Bryncethin 6 - Pen-y-Graig 6
AFTER an enforced break over the previous two weeks due to the atrocious weather conditions, Bryncethin under-8s played hosts to a well-drilled Pen-y-Graig team.

In this exciting encounter, the Bryncethin youngsters fought back doggedly with a never-say-die attitude to earn a well-deserved draw, after seemingly being beaten at half-time.

Ifan Hunnam opened the scoring for Bryncethin, finishing off the first attacking play with some exquisite evasive running. However, Pen-y-Graig hit back immediately with three unanswered scores despite Morgan Hughes, Shea Francis and Holly Morgan claiming excellent tags as they defended each attack.

Bryncethin scored their second try after an excellent team move instigated by Rhys Williams. His direct running was complemented

by excellent support runs by Mike Gillette and Ben Lewis. The ball was then passed onto Ifan Hunnam, who cut inside the defensive line and darted over in the corner.

The visitors then took control of the game and broke through the Bryncethin defensive line twice more with brilliant direct running and teamwork, resulting in a half-time scoreline of 2 - 5.

The second half started with Bryncethin and Pen-y-Graig trading a try each. Bryncethin's score came after Rhys Cawley received the ball deep in his own half, completing a wonderful solo effort by sprinting through the whole defence.

This try seemed to inspire the whole Bryncethin team, as they denied their opponents any time or space on the ball and forced the Pen-y-Graig players backwards time and time again to claim their tags.

Bryncethin were now dominating the game and finished the match by running in three unanswered tries to complete an amazing fightback.

Jake Whitehead claimed the first of these scores by cutting swiftly inside the onrushing defence after receiving a well-timed pass from Rhys Williams.

Ifan Hunnam took his personal tally to four tries and claimed the final score by crossing in the corner after a fantastic passing move to stretch the defensive line.

This was an inspiring performance by every player involved. The determination and unrelenting effort shown was typified by Will Laverick's excellent tagging and support play, which earned him this week's stand-out performance award.

All the coaches and parents were extremely proud of the effort and attitude displayed by the whole team, well done!

Squad: Thomas Bassett (captain), Shaun Batchelor, Rhys Cawley, Shea Francis, Mike Gillette, Morgan Hughes, Ifan Hunnam, Will Laverick, Ben Lewis, Holly Morgan, Josh Nuth, Kane Walters, Jake Whitefield, Rhys Williams

Under-9s
Bryncethin 3 - Garw 4

Following on from the weather-enforced lay off, it was feared that the Bryncethin youngsters would be a little rusty. These fears seemed unfounded as the team, led by Tobias Hunt made an excellent start to the match.

Ethan Hopkins opened the scoring after bundling over from short range, and this was followed by excellent clearing out by Bryncethin after Morgan Stevens had made a fine break.

The resulting quick ball was made available to Josh Napper, who made a break on the narrow side to cross the line and double the lead.

More good work by Luke Board, Rhys Davies and Jack Thomas meant that Bryncethin kept up the pressure.

It was then against the run of play when the Garw responded just before half time with a fine score.

The second half started in complete contrast to the first. Two quick tries from the Garw saw them take a 3 - 2 lead.

At long last, the Bryncethin team woke up following the interval with Aaron Thomas leading the way with

some strong drives, ably supported by his teammates. More good presentation of the ball from a ruck meant that the excellent Daniel Osarigie was able to beat the defence and, showing his usual balance and pace, he was able to get clear of all the covering defenders to level the score.

Unfortunately, the

Bryncethin team seemed to turn off following this score and it allowed Garw to make progress downfield and score the decisive try.

A disappointing result for the Bryncethin boys, but there were enough positives for the coaching team to take forward into the New Year.

Squad: Tobias Hunt (captain), Rhys Davies, Morgan Stevens, Luke Board, Jack Thomas, Aaron Thomas, Josh Napper, Ethan Hopkins and Daniel Osarigie.

Man of the match: A superb defensive display and an excellent try meant that Daniel Osarigie was the deserving recipient of this week's award.

The Ath notched up a further five tries through Connor

Fabian, Sam Veasey (two), Daffydd Beech and Thomas Anthony. These tries were the result of some good forward play - they set up the rucks, allowing the backs to move the ball and also clearing out the opposition really well, with some great forward momentum.

Final score:

Bridgend Athletic 3, Swansea Uplands 2.

Team: Jack Obbard,

Jade Thomas, Megan

Webb, Louis King,

Thomas Anthony,

Jamie Marshall, James

Hermolle, Kasari

Mehta, Josh Tidy and

William Goodall.

Player of the match went to Louis King, for some outstanding forward play; keep it going.

Even though our

teams were mixed they seemed to gel well

together. In both

games, the backs managed to put some fine

play together, by pass-

ing the ball through

hand, with some

unselfish play from

many of the players.

Also, well done to all the players who helped Swansea Uplands out.

Athletic Greens give Uplands the rugby blues!

ON the best day for rugby for some weeks, Bridgend Athletic under-10s welcomed Swansea Uplands to Newbridge Fields.

Both teams started well, with the visitors putting some good passing movements together. The Ath tackled well and when on the back foot, eased the pressure with a couple of well-worked lineouts.

Bridgend then did some attacking of their own, with good passing among backs Rhys Gamble, Caine

Woolerton, Chris Matthews, Dylan Parry and Drew Cording.

The contact area was fiercely contested, but Bridgend did manage two first half tries.

The first came from a powerful burst for the line from forward Jack Walker, followed by a great charge from inside his own half from another forward, Rhys Durlucia.

The Ath led 14-0 at half-time, but it was

very close between the two teams.

The second half started with Uplands kicking off, only for Caine Woolerton to race through the Uplands' defence to score a great individual try which stunned the visitors.

The Ath played some excellent rugby and the forwards of Morgan Hughes, Matthew Hobby, Jac Bassett, Jack Walker and Rhys Durlucia improved at the ruck area, providing the backs with better quality ball.

Further tries were added by Rhys Gamble and Chris Matthews. Woolerton added his second and Caine

Morgan, who came on for his Greens debut, grabbed his first try for the club; six tries were converted.

Man-of-the-match went to Chris Matthews who had a good all round game in an unfamiliar position.

Final score Ath Greens 47, Swansea Uplands 0.

A second match was

played between the Ath Yellows and Swansea Uplands, and Uplands scored just after the kick-off.

The forwards of Lewys Jenkins, Ethan Bennett, Angus Morgan, Mitchell Davies and Matthew Hibbert battled well against a very physical pack of forwards.

The Ath backs were Callum Morgan, Sean Quick, Nathan Willis, Iwan Osbourne and Will Mahoney, who looked sharp at scrum-half.

Despite a good effort from the Yellows, the Uplands were too strong and ran in a further four tries before the Bridgend boys rallied for a last big effort.

The ball was won by the forwards and moved along the line to flying winger Dylan Parry, who finished in style for the game's best try.

Lewis Jenkins was named man-of-the-match for a courageous display at hooker.

Final score Ath Yellows 7, Swansea Uplands 29.

LG

Under-9s have their very own swap shop!

THE Swansea side travelled to Newbridge Fields on Sunday with only eight players, so we loaned them two players, Jack Obbard and Kasari Mehta.

This gave us a chance to mix our players up for each game, by putting the Greens backs with Yellows forwards and vice versa for the next game.

In the first game, the Ath under-9s dominated play and took a 2-0 lead at half-time, with tries coming from Connor Fabian and Thomas Anthony, after some good play from the forwards.

The second game was a closer encounter than the first. The two players on loan to Swansea for this half were Connor Fabian and Gwilym John, both played well, with Connor Fabian even scoring a try in this game for Swansea Uplands.

The forwards were working well as a pack, wiping out and taking the ball forward and setting it up and giving the backs a chance to throw the ball around.

At half-time, the Ath had a further five tries through Connor Fabian, Sam Veasey (two), Daffydd Beech and Thomas Anthony. These tries were the result of some good forward play - they set up the rucks, allowing the backs to move the ball and also clearing out the opposition really well, with some great forward momentum.

Final score:

Bridgend Athletic 3,

Swansea Uplands 2.

Team: Jack Obbard,

Jade Thomas, Megan

Webb, Louis King,

Thomas Anthony,

Jamie Marshall, James

Hermolle, Kasari

Mehta, Josh Tidy and

William Goodall.

Player of the match

went to Louis King, for some outstanding forward play; keep it going.

Even though our

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ing the ball through

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many of the players.

Also, well done to

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helped Swansea

Uplands out.

PO

Tries galore as Athletic seconds take on Neath

BRIDGEND Athletic seconds travelled to Neath Athletic and a crisp sunny day at Cwrt Herbert fields was made for open rugby.

The Bridgend Athletic team opened the scoring after five minutes when centre Lloyd Pemberton burst through midfield to score near the posts. Outside half Tom Cole converted.

The Ath were exerting the early pressure and from a fine take at the tail of a lineout, flanker Aled Guy crashed through desperate tackles to extend the lead. Tom Cole added the extras.

The Neath side rallied and responded with a try from a close range lineout by flanker Gareth Northgate, but their revival was short lived as further tries by J Nation, S Owen and a superb individual try by Pemberton extended the Bridgend lead.

Good running rugby from Athletic juniors

BRIDGEND Athletic under-7s' first rugby in three weeks, due to bad weather, saw a strong Swansea Uplands side come to Newbridge Fields.

The under-7s played some super rugby. Swansea opened the scoring with a good try and showed good ball skills which kept the Ath on their toes.

The Ath battled hard and got their reward with Jordan Gittins crossing the try line to even up the scores. Defence by both sides in this cold weather was good to watch, and the Ath scored again through Thomas Lewis, who raced down the line to squeeze over in the corner.

With both sides playing really well, Swansea scored a good try at the end of the first half to tie the scores.

The second half saw another fast-paced display by both sides and also saw Olivia Thomson play her first game, and it was the Ath that broke through a strong defence to score a good try by Connor Lee.

Swansea battled back and scored straight from the restart to tie the scores again.

With time nearly up, Swansea finished the game as they started and scored another good try which didn't give the Ath enough time to respond.

Final score: Athletic 3 Swansea Uplands 4

The under-7s played a second game as the weather was so nice. They battled hard but Swansea eventually came out on top 5-2.

Player of the match went to Daniel Elias for a solid all-round performance.

The squad: Connor Lee, Ryley Howells, Euan Rees, Jordan Gittins, Lloyd Anthony.

David Mega of Neath finished off a rolling maul, scoring a try to make the half time score 40-10 to the Bridgend side.

The second half continued as the first, with Bridgend Athletic playing an expansive running game resulting in early tries for Nation and Pemberton, converted by Cole.

Unfortunately the Bridgend Athletic forward effort was disrupted by injury and the Neath side took full advantage with a brace of tries from wing B Williams, a try from prop Neil Thomas, followed by a penalty try.

Any threat to Bridgend Athletic's early domination was sealed by a further try by centre Pemberton and the conversion by Tom Cole.

The final score was 61-32 to Bridgend Athletic, with Lloyd Pemberton voted man of the match.

Good running rugby from Athletic juniors

Lloyd Bennett, Olivia Thomson, Rhys Thomas, Daniel Elias and Thomas Lewis.

Under-8s

THE first game for the under-8s was another fantastic battle, and after the 10-all draw a few months ago, the boys all stepped up again.

Swansea started off the better with good passing of the ball and great movement. They caught the Ath cold and scored two quick tries before the home team started to wake up.

The first for the Ath came from Mason Hughes, who scored a great try, and this lifted the Ath, who started to play some fine rugby. Mason Edwards got the second, followed by Oliver Raynor and, to top off a great first half, Mason Edwards got his second as the Ath cut loose.

They raced up field with good passing and support play to score a great try in the corner. The game was coming to an end and the Ath boys scored another two more tries, from Mason Edwards who got his third, and Mason Hughes who got his second.

Final score: Bridgend Athletic 8 Swansea Uplands 5.

Player of the match went to Iwan Hill for his hard work and effort on the field.

The squad: Bobby Bromley, Dafydd Hitchings, Dewi Harding, Isaac Watkins, Iwan Hill, Jack Pitts, Mason Edwards, Mason Hughes, Morgan Bennett, Oliver Raynor and Sam Ralph.

The second game saw the Swansea come out on top with a last-minute try to win 4-3.

AB

High-flying Pontypridd lose to classy Pencoed under-9s

PENCOED under-12s entertained Pontypridd at the weekend and agreed to Ponty's request of playing three 20-minute periods.

With only one defeat so far this season, a tough test was expected.

However, Pencoed were out for revenge after last season's unexpected defeat at Ponty.

Ponty's backline had apparently been taking other teams apart with their pace, but on this occasion they more than met their match.

The hosts opened the scoring early on through Lewis Butler, after the forwards provided quick ruck ball for the backs to finish off.

Ponty rarely got into Pencoed's half throughout the period, but they tackled well to keep Pencoed out. Luke Bevan eventually crossed in the corner for Pencoed's second, again after lovely handling through the back-line to give Pencoed a 10-0 lead at the break.

The second period continued in the same vein as the first, with the Pencoed forwards dominating proceedings and providing an endless supply of ball to the backline.

Ponty, however, continued to defend well but eventually further scores from Callum Baker and Rhys Butler, converted by Connor Goldsworthy, extended the hosts lead to 24-0 at the end of the sec-

ond period.

Both teams made a number of changes for the final period but unfortunately for the visitors, straight from the kick off the ball was recycled to Lewis Butler who showed the defence a clean pair of heels to score under the posts, with Connor Goldsworthy converting.

Ponty managed to score a converted try of their own before Dan Watkins crossed from short range to deservedly get the Pencoed forwards on the scoresheet and give the hosts a 36-7 victory.

Man of the match went to Mr Consistency himself, Callum Baker.

SB

Thank you for saying you saw it in The GEM

TONDU JUNIOR RUGBY ROUND-UP

Under-13s are just pipped by powerful Cowbridge outfit

TONDU came unstuck against a powerful Cowbridge outfit, although they were first to score.

Harrison Evans made yardage down the wing and offloaded to Ben Jones, who sprinted under the posts for a well-executed try, converted by Rhidian Jenkins and gave Tondu a slender 14-12 lead.

Cowbridge replied from a five-metre scrum. This try was converted.

Tondu were on the back foot during the second period. Cowbridge used their big forwards to good effect to make territory. A series of forward drives resulted in Cowbridge scoring near the corner.

Tondu mounted a comeback, put the

home team under pressure and were rewarded for their efforts with an equalising try.

Ben Jones took a quick penalty near the Cowbridge line. When he was tackled, Sam Matthews picked up the ball and powered over. This try was converted by Rhidian Jenkins and gave Tondu a slender 14-12 lead.

Cowbridge were soon back on the attack, however, using their backs to make headway. Cowbridge again scored from a series of powerful forward rumbles to claim the winning score. This try was converted.

Final score Cowbridge 19, Tondu 14.

AFTER a few games cancelled due to the wet weather, Tondu under-10s travelled over the mountain to visit Ystrad Rhondda.

Ystrad won the toss and the Tondu young-

sters were on the receiving end of some ferocious attacking and soon fell behind as the large Ystrad forwards gained ground and allowed

their backs to play.

Tondu continued to tackle and ruck but with a little less intensity than the opposition, and the game became more one-sided as the half continued.

Ystrad ran in three more tries before the half was over, gaining the extras for three of them.

With few changes made, Tondu withstood one or two scares to come away with a hard-fought draw.

Final score: Ystrad Rhondda 1, Tondu 1

Squad: Luke Brett, Daniel Mayne, James Murray, Morgan Strong, Patrick Riley, Jacob Thomas, Lewis Dyke, Cameron Keegans, Keiran Edwards, Lewis Oates, Luke Dingle.

DM

Ystrad's pack tip the balance

with forwards and backs showing the intensity of a Wednesday training session.

They were unlucky to concede another try in the half as they gained ground and stature as the half progressed.

Tondu finally got on the scoreboard through Jamie Richards, who broke free and ran round the defence and out-paced the cover to score. Ben Merchant converted the try.

The second half started with a Tondu kick into space and good chasing by the forwards, Ioan Thomas stealing the ball from the Ystrad ruck.

The ball was spread wide to Jordan Morgan on the wing and he had the speed and strength to cross the line. Again, Ben Merchant's boot was true to tie the game.

Ystrad Rhondda were shaken into life and although Tondu defended their line well, the larger Ystrad forwards came to the fore.

However, it took them several attempts to get the final score, bundled into touch twice and held up once.

Eventually the pressure told and they crossed the line and gained the extras.

Full time: Ystrad Rhondda 21 Tondu 14

Tondu squad: Ben Merchant, Jamie Richards, Jordan Morgan, Iwan Knight, Garryn Thomas, Ioan Thomas, Jack Llewellyn, Callum Booton, Shannon Price, Morgan David, Ryan Kershaw and Eleri Knight.

Tondu Star of the Game was awarded to Iwan Knight, for his all round performance in the forwards.

JK

Under-9s come away with hard-fought draw

AFTER going a few weeks without a game because of the weather, Tondu under-9s were eager to get another match under their belt.

On a lovely, if slightly cold, December morning Tondu kicked off against their hosts. The game soon turned into an attritional forward battle with neither side giving any quarter, and hard but fair tackles being dished out

left and right.

There were few opportunities to get some width on the ball, but Tondu did manage to find a gap towards the end of the second half, allowing Daniel Mayne to slip through for Tondu's only score of the game.

Ystrad Rhondda responded almost immediately with a well-worked try of their own from a penalty near the Tondu line.

The second half saw more of the same but neither side could add to the

score. The game ebbed and flowed with Ystrad having a bit more of the play.

However, Tondu withstood one or two scares to come away with a hard-fought draw.

Final score: Ystrad Rhondda 1, Tondu 1

Squad: Luke Brett, Daniel Mayne, James Murray, Morgan Strong, Patrick Riley, Jacob Thomas, Lewis Dyke, Cameron Keegans, Keiran Edwards, Lewis Oates, Luke Dingle.

DM

Pair of excellent wins for Pen-y-Fai under-12s

THE game between Pen-y-Fai under-12s and Llangynwyd started at a fast pace, which suited the 'Pen'.

There were early goals from Rob Symmonds and his brother Ben. The Llan defence were struggling to compete and further goals from Jonathan Harvey, Zack Edwards, Dylan Witcombe and Jac Lewis took the half-time score to 6-1.

Pen made changes after the interval and the game was a lot tighter, with Llan getting more into the game. However, further goals from Harvey, Edwards, Witcombe and Rob

Symmonds made it 10. The third of the family trio was not to be denied and Mathew Symmonds added two more goals.

A big cheer went up when the Llan midfield player struck a wonderful freekick into the top corner to finish the scoring.

ABERKENFIG NEXT

The Pen lads had the shock of their lives from a well-drilled Aberkenfig team who made them work for every scrap of possession.

Pen started with a lot of pressure on the Aber defence but the goal-keeper stood up to everything. It took something special to break the deadlock.

The second was from a freekick where captain Zack Edwards again put it into the same corner – an excellent shot that the keeper could do nothing about.

The defence of Callum Jones, Brandon Kent, Dylan Witcombe and man of the match Thomas James were kept busy by the Aber attack.

It was more of the same in the second half, with a lot of chances going off target until Edwards, who was leading by example, scored the third.

Both teams made changes to give everybody a game and one of the substitutes, Elliot Thomas, scored the fourth.

Soon after, the Aber team got what they deserved with a well-taken goal where they finally beat Jed Stilman the home keeper.

Harry Beale was first to register a try, quickly followed by Joe Stradling.

Harry, not happy with just the one try, soon followed it up with another gem.

Celtic looked a bit shell-shocked but soon pulled themselves together and ran in four unanswered tries of their own to make it four tries to three at half-time.

Porthcawl rang the changes for the second half and started to

WE welcome your sports items. Email them to : ggem@internet-today.co.uk

ON a bright and chilly day, Porthcawl under-10s welcomed Maesteg Celtic to their South Road home.

Kurtis Pridmore was next up to level the score, followed by Dan Williams who ran in three without reply.

Louis Protheroe then himself a quick brace of tries just before the final whistle.

The final score was Porthcawl 45 Maesteg Celtic 20.

Rest of squad: Ethan Waters, Connor Grant, Ben Collins, Cameron Williams, Callum Morgan, Mathew Roberts, Zakk Furness-Jones, Max Budding, Ben Davies, Ben Roach, Connor Harrington-Pittam, Joe Beale, Sam Edwards, Lloyd Mortimer.

IB

Porthcawl under-10s' win after second half surge

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IB



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NEWS FROM PENARTH AND DISTRICT RAMBLERS

Put your best foot forward for a Festival of Winter Walks!

THE Festival of Winter Walks is held each year by the Ramblers and this year, sponsored by Nature Valley, is in its 21st year.

All walks will be subject to weather conditions and may be cancelled, shortened or changed, but let us hope that the weather will be kind to us!

You are requested to wear stout footwear, warm clothing and to carry a waterproof.

There will be no official stops but you may like to bring something small to nibble, and please carry a drink.

On December 31,

meet at 9.30am at the Woodland Trust car park on the Michaelston lane, for a 5.5-mile easy walk around Michaelston and Wrinstone; contact Joy on 01446 737131.

On December 31, meet 10am at Penarth cliff top car park for a five-mile easy walk along the coastal path and Cosmeston; contact Ann on 029 2040 7319.

On New Year's Day, meet at 10am at Cosmeston Park for a four-mile moderate walk around Sully; contact Janet and John on 01446 418514.

On January 2, meet at 10.30am at the Wenvoe War Memorial (please do not use the pub car park) for a four-mile easy/mod walk above Wenvoe; contact Geraint on 029 2051 5278. Rucksack badges, programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2021 9102.

For more details on walks in other areas please log onto www.ramblers.org.uk/winterwalks.

JOY STRANGWARD

Sully Youth come up short

SULLY Sports RFC Youth returned to action following the November interruption, the opposition being Llantrisant.

The Sports started brightly enough and looked as though their continued training would pay off as Nathan Taylor scored a well-worked try following a sustained period of pressure.

However, the Sports took their foot off the pedal and lost their impetus.

The Sports failed to capitalise upon the many chances they had and this was to haunt them.

Llantrisant worked hard in the second half, levelling the score, then, with two minutes to go, Llantrisant scored the decisive try for a final score of 7-17.

This was a game The Sports could and should have won. The boys realised this and were self-critical following the match.

There were positives, both flankers had a superb game and were praised by both the opposition coaches and referee. Well done to Harry Moyle and Alex Holder.

The scrum and lineout worked well, with a welcome return from Alex Bertera following a lay off due to injury.

The Sports wish to say thank you to RAF St Athan and The Blues as

We welcome your items. Please email them to: ggem@internet-today.co.uk

BB

Friends' Santa dash for nephew



Jeff and Barry.

FRIENDS Jeff and Barry from Barry the Santa Run with Barry. I have done a few charity runs before but never dressed as Father Christmas and never at midnight, so this one was a bit different. It was a good laugh while also raising money for a very worthwhile cause."

Jeff and Barry jointly raised more than £800 for the charity which will go towards helping children diagnosed with terminal cancer to enjoy life experiences.

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09 09 C-MAX 1.6 Zetec 5-dr MPV.

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08 08 C-MAX 1.8 TDCi Titanium 5-dr.

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08 08 C-MAX 1.8 TDCi Zetec 5-dr.

Sport pack, privacy, a/c, cd

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06 55 C-MAX 1.6 Zetec 5-dr.

Air con, alloys

£5995

04 54 C-MAX 1.6 Zetec 5-dr.

Alloys, a/c

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09 09 MONDEO 2.0 TDCi Titanium X 5-dr.

Leather, alloys, climate

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09 09 MONDEO 2.0 TDCi Zetec 5-dr.

Alloys, cd, full electrics

£13995

08 58 MONDEO 1.8 TDCi Zetec Estate.

Alloys, cd, full electrics

£13995

05 05 MONDEO 1.8 Zetec Estate.

Alloys, air con, cd

£4295

04 04 MONDEO 2.0 TDCi Mistral 5-dr.

Alloys, air con

£3695

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08 58 VAUXHALL Astra 1.6i Twin Top

Sport. A/c, alloys, cd

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06 06 VAUXHALL Tigra 1.8i Exclusive Convertible.

Full leather, alloys, A/C, alarm

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06 06 FOCUS 1.6 LX Auto 5-dr. A/c, cd, full electrics

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06 06 FIESTA 1.4 Zetec Climate Auto 3-dr.

Alloys, a/c, cd

£5995

06 06 FOCUS 1.6 LX 5-dr Auto.

A/c, cd, electrics

£6495

06 06 FOCUS 1.6i Zetec Climate 5-dr

A/c, cd, alloys, cd

£6995

06 55 FOCUS 2.0 Ghia 5-dr Auto.

Alloys, cd, cruise

£6995

05 05 MONDEO 2.0i LX 5-dr Auto.

A/c, cd, low miles

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KUGA

09 59 KUGA 2.0 TDCi. Titanium Sports pack, DAB Sony CD, bluetooth, half leather	£18995
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PUMA

00X PUMA 1.7 Millennium. 6 disc, full leather, esp, bright yellow	£2995
00V PUMA 1.4 Coupe. Luxury pack, a/c, alloys, cd, 1 owner, very low miles	£2695
07 07 VAUXHALL Meriva 1.3 CDTi Life. A/c, electrics, cd	£7495
06 56 RENAULT Clio 1.5 DCi Dynamique 3-dr. CD, full electrics	£6995
06 06 PEUGEOT 107 1.0i Urban. a/c, cd, full electrics	£5295

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07 07 VAUXHALL Meriva 1.3 CDTi Life. A/c, electrics, cd	£7495
06 56 RENAULT Clio 1.5 DCi Dynamique 3-dr. CD, full electrics	£6995
06 06 PEUGEOT 107 1.0i Urban. a/c, cd, full electrics	£5295
07 07 VAUXHALL Meriva 1.3 CDTi Life. A/c, electrics, cd	£7495
06 06 TOYOTA Yaris T3 3-dr. A/c, cd, met. grey, under 15k miles	£6495
05 55 NISSAN Micra 1.2 SE 5-dr. A/c, CD, full electrics	£5495
05 55 VAUXHALL Zafira 1.6 Breeze. 7 seats, alloys, a/c, cd	£6495
04 54 JAGUAR X Type 2.0 Diesel SE 4-dr. A/c, cd, full leather	£6995
04 54 FIAT Punto 1.2 Active 3-dr. Pas, c/l, low miles, full electrics	£3495
04 54 RENAULT Scenic 1.4 Authentique 5-dr. A/c, cd, full electrics, low miles	£4695
04 54 VAUXHALL Meriva 1.6 Life 5-dr. A/c, cd, electrics	£4495
04 54 RENAULT Clio 1.2 16v Dynamique 5-dr. c/d, pas, s/roof	£4495
04 04 ROVER 75 1.8 Connoisseur 4-dr Auto. Alloys, climate	£3995
04 04 PEUGEOT 206 1.1 Independence 3-dr. Alloys, cd	£3995
04 04 NISSAN Micra 1.0E 3-Dr. Remote locking, CD, electric windows	£3495
03 53 MG ZR 1.4 105 ps 3-dr. Alloys, rear spoiler, cd	£2995
03 53 RENAULT Clio 1.2 Authentique 3-dr. A/c, cd, full electrics	£3695
02 02 RENAULT Clio 2.0 172 Sport 3-dr. Alloys, climate control, cd, half leather	£4695
02 02 RENAULT Clio 1.2 3-dr Auto Expression. Low miles, full electrics	£3495

COMMERCIALS

08 58 FORD Transit 2.2 TDCi 280 SWB CD, electrics, white	£9495 + VAT@15%
04 54 DAF Truck FA LF 45 150 Tipper Low mileage	£9495 + VAT@15%

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02 02 SUZUKI Wagon R 1.3 GL Special 5dr

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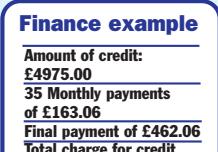
03 53 RENAULT Scenic 1.6 Auto, Green metallic

£6,975



07 56 VAUXHALL Astra 1.4 Active 5-dr, black metallic.

£1,975



Finance example

Amount of credit: £4975.00
35 Monthly payments of £163.06
Final payment of £462.06
Total charge for credit £1194.16
Total amount payable £6169.16
Weekly equivalent £39.55
APR 14.82%
*Photos are indicative only

Small Cars

02 02 FIAT Seicento Sporting 1.1 3dr. Met black, 58k miles, cd, pas, alloys	£1,975
02 02 SUZUKI Wagon R 1.3 GL Special 5dr. Silver met, 50k miles, rcl, a/c, e/w, alloys	£3,475
03 03 FIAT Punto 1.2 Active 5dr. Blue met, 47k miles, rcl, pas, e/w, cd	£3,675
04 04 FIAT Panda 1.2 Dynamic AUTO 5dr. 19k miles, blue met, rcl, cd, ew, low miles	£3,975
02 52 VOLKSWAGEN Polo 1.4 S 3dr. Bright yellow, 63k miles, ew, cl, PAS	£3,975
03 03 SKODA Fabia 1.9 TDI Turbo Diesel 5dr. Green met, 61k miles, rcl, cd, alloys	£4,475
04 54 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.4 3dr SXI. Blue metallic, 53k miles, rcl, alloys, ew, pas	£4,475
05 54 RENAULT Clio 1.2 Expression 3-dr. Silver met, 58k miles, rcl, pas, ew, cd	£4,475
07 07 HYUNDAI Amica 1.1 GSI 5dr. Blue metallic, 20k miles, ew, cd, pas	£4,475
04 04 RENAULT Clio 1.4 Expression 5dr. Blue met, 32k miles, rcl, pas, e/w, cd	£4,675
04 04 FORD Street Ka 1.6i Convertible. Blue met, rcl, ac, cd, ew	£4,975
05 55 TOYOTA Yaris 1.3 VVT-i Colour Collection 3-dr. Met grey, 38k miles, alloys, rcl, pas, ew	£4,975
06 06 SMART Fortwo City Coupe AUTO. Met silver, alloys, a/c, rcl, cd	£4,975
06 06 VAUXHALL Agila 1.2 16v Enjoy 5dr. Metallic purple, 12k miles rcl, pas, ew, cd	£5,975
06 56 NISSAN Micra 1.2 3dr. In met grey, cd, ew, 19k miles	£5,975
07 56 SEAT Ibiza Styline 3dr. Sky blue met, cd, rcl, 12k miles	£5,975
06 56 CITROEN C3 1.4 Desire 5dr. In met black, cd, a/c, pas, 24k miles	£6,975
07 07 CITROEN C3 1.4 Desire 5-dr. Met black, cd, a/c, pas, 12k miles	£6,975
04 08 FORD Fiesta 1.4 Zetec Climate 3dr. Black met, 27k miles, alloys, rcl, cd, tinted rear windows	£7,975
08 08 SUZUKI Swift 1.3 gl 5dr. Met orange with silver stripes, 19k miles, rcl, alloys, cd	£7,975

Family Cars

03 03 PEUGEOT 307 1.6 S 5dr. Red metallic, 48k miles, rcl, alloys, cd	£3,975
03 03 VOLKSWAGEN Golf 1.4 5dr. Gold met, 50k miles, rcl, cd, pas	£4,475
04 04 HONDA Jazz 1.4 DSI SE AUTO 5dr. Silver metallic, rcl, cd, ew, alloys	£4,475
04 54 FORD Fusion 1.4 TDCi 3 DIESEL 5dr. Blue met, 56 miles, alloys, cd, ew, rcl	£4,475
05 05 VOLKSWAGEN Passat 1.9 TDI (100) TURBO DIESEL. Blue, 64k miles, rcl, ew, cd, ac	£5,975
05 55 VW Bora 1.9 TDI Highline. In bright red, 17 inch alloys, cd, climate, sports seats	£6,475
05 05 SKODA Octavia 2.0 FSI 5dr. Silver metallic, 42k miles, rcl, ew, pas, cd	£6,975
06 06 FORD Focus 1.6 Zetec AUTO 5dr. Silver met, 44k miles, rcl, alloys, a/c, cd	£6,975
07 07 FIAT Grande Punto 1.2 Dynamic 5dr. Met blue, e, windows, RCL, 5k miles	£6,975
07 56 VAUXHALL Astra 1.4 Active 5dr. Black met, 19k miles, rcl, pas, ew, cd	£6,975
06 06 FORD Focus 1.8 TDCi Ghia 5dr DIESEL. Tonic met, alloys, cd, fsh	£7,975

Sports & Executives

01 51 ROVER 75 2.5 V6 AUTO Connoisseur. Blue met, rcl, a/c, cd, alloys, e/w, nav, full leather	£3,475
03 03 FORD Focus ST170. Met grey, alloys, a/c, cd, half leather	£4,975
04 04 HYUNDAI Coupe 2.0 SE. Met silver, a/c, alloys, full leather upholstery	£4,975
00 W AUDI S3 Quattro 3dr. Blue met, 88k miles, alloys, beige leather, climate, cd	£5,975
04 54 RENAULT Megane 1.9 DCI 3dr (120bhp) Dynamique TURBO DIESEL. 60k miles, panoramic roof, rcl, a/c, e/w	£5,475
03 02 PEUGEOT 206cc Convertible. Silver met, 38k miles, rcl, e/w, cd, 2 tone leather	£5,975
08 08 JAGUAR XJR 4.2 Supercharged AUTO. Black met, 9k miles, alloys, rcl, full leather	£36,975

Estates, MPVs and 4x4s

03 03 KIA Sportage 2.0 XSE 5dr 4x4. Silver met, 60k miles, c/l, e/w, a/c, alloys	£3,475
02 51 VAUXHALL Zafira 1.6 Comfort 7-seater. Silver met, rcl, a/c, ew	£3,675
03 53 RENAULT Scenic 1.6 AUTO. Green met, 57k miles, rcl, pas, ew, cd	£3,675
03 52 FORD Focus 1.6 LX ESTATE. Met alloys, a/c, cd, roof rails, 60k miles	£3,975
06 56 CHEVROLET Tacuma 1.6 SX MPV. Black met, 26k miles, rdl, v/w, cd	£4,475
07 07 LANDROVER Freelander 2.2 TD4 HSE. Black metallic, 23k miles, front and rear sensors, touch screen nav	£21,975

Summer Cars - Winter Prices

96 N FORD Friedia AUTO 2.5 TURBO DIESEL. 96k miles, a/c, electric blinds, elevating roof	£4,975
04 04 FORD Street Ka 1.6 CONVERTIBLE. Blue met, 44k miles, alloys, rcl, cd	£4,975
03 53 MGTF 1.15 Sunstorm CONVERTIBLE. Black met, 49k miles, alloys, rcl, hard top	£4,975
04 53 MGTF 1.8 135 CONVERTIBLE. Silver met, 31k miles, alloys, rcl, e/w, pas	£4,975
04 04 FORD Street Ka Luxury 1.6 CONVERTIBLE luxury. Black, 49k miles, leather, rcl, a/c, cd, e/w	£4,975
06 06 RENAULT Megane 1.6 Dynamique CONVERTIBLE. Black met, 21k miles, rcl, a/c, cd, e/w	£8,975
04 04 SAAB 93 2.0 VECTOR CONVERTIBLE. Grey met, 50k miles, alloys, cd, a/c, rcl, full leather	£9,475
04 04 MERCEDES SL 500 AUTO CONVERTIBLE. Silver met, 82k miles, nav, keyless go, leather, park sensors	£19,975

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06 56 VAUXHALL Agila 1.2 Design 5dr. Silver met, only 1,900 miles!	Ours £5,975	Saving £3,000	
06 56 FORD Fiesta 1.6 5dr Style Climate AUTO. Only 2,300 miles!	New £11,275	Ours £6,775	Saving £4,500
56 06 VAUXHALL Zafira 1.6 5dr Life (A/C) Blue met, only 4,900 miles!	New £14,975	Ours £6,975	Saving £8,000
06 56 RENAULT Megane 1.6 Dynamique 5dr. Met gold, only 3200 miles!	New £14,336	Ours £6,475	Saving £7,861
06 56 CITROEN C3 1.6 SX 5dr AUTO. Met blue, only 5200 miles!	New £12,182	Ours £6,475	Saving £5,707
06 56 VAUXHALL Astra 1.8 Life A/C AUTO 5dr. Panacotta, only 4,900 miles	New £14,975	Ours £6,975	Saving £8,000
06 56 FORD Fusion 1.6 Zetec Climate 5dr. Red met, only 2,000 miles	New £12,475	Ours £6,975	Saving £5,500
06 56 FORD Focus C-Max Zetec 2.0 AUTO 5dr. Met mintgreen, only 4300 miles!	New £17,172	Ours £6,975	Saving £10,197
06 56 NISSAN Micra 1.2 Sport 5dr. Grey met, only 2,500 miles	New £11,475	Ours £6,975	Saving £4,500
06 56 RENAULT Clio 1.6 Expression AUTO 5dr. Met blue, only 1760 miles!	New £12,475	Ours £6,975	Saving £5,500
06 56 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 5dr. Met black, only 2500 miles!	New £10,975	Ours £6,975	Saving £4,000
06 56 VAUXHALL Zafira 1.65 dr Life (A/C) Blue met, only 1,500 miles	New £14,975	Ours £7,475	Saving £7,500
06 06 RENAULT Grand Scenic 1.6 Dynamique. Red met, only 4,500 miles!	New £16,795	Ours £7,475	Saving £9,000
58 09 FORD Fusion 1.4 5dr Style AUTO. Red met, only 1,000 miles!	New £11,275	Ours £7,475	Saving £3,500
06 56 RENAULT Scenic 1.6 Dynamique AUTO. Silver met, only 2,700 miles	New £16,975	Ours £7,475	Saving £9,500
06 56 FORD Fiesta 1.6 Style Climate AUTO. Blue met, only 3,700 miles	New £11,475	Ours £7,475	Saving £4,000
06 56 FORD C-Max 2.0 Zetec AUTO MPV. Blue met, only 4,500 miles	New £17,475	Ours £7,475	Saving £10,000
06 56 FORD Focus 1.6 Sport 5dr. Blue met, only 5,600 miles	New £13,975	Ours £7,475	Saving £6,500
08 58 RENAULT Clio 1.2 Expression 5dr. Blue met, only 3,000 miles!	New £10,175	Ours £7,475	Saving £2,200
09 58 VAUXHALL Meriva 1.4 Life (A/C). Silver met, only 741 miles	New £12,975	Ours £8,475	Saving £4,500
09 58 VOLKSWAGEN Polo 1.2 5dr Hatch. Black met, only 2,600 miles	New £10,475	Ours £8,475	Saving £2,000
08 08 HONDA Jazz 1.4 5dr SE. Blue met, only 4,800 miles!	New £11,475	Ours £8,975	Saving £2,500
09 09 VAUXHALL Astra 1.6 5dr Life. Silver met, only 1,700 miles!	New £14,975	Ours £9,475	Saving £5,500
09 09 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.4 5dr club AUTO. Silver met, only 400 miles!	New £11,975	Ours £9,475	Saving £2,500
09 09 CITROEN Berlingo 1.6 HDi 5dr VTR. Blue met, only 2,200 miles!	New £12,475	Ours £9,975	Saving £2,500
09 09 FORD Fiesta 1.25 Style+ 5dr. Black met, only 650 miles	New £12,97	Ours £10,475	Saving £2,500

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08 **JAGUAR X-Type 2.2 Diesel Sport premium plus.** In metallic nighthshade with full cream leather interior, electric memory seats, colour touch screen sat nav, bluetooth, 18" Jaguar split rim alloy wheels, front and rear parking distance control, fsh £16,995
 07 **JAGUAR X K convertible.** Zircon blue metallic with ivory sports leather interior, upgraded 20 inch setanta wheels, full colour satellite navigation, electric heated memory seats, cruise control, climate control, rear parking sensors, colour phone sat nav, 18" alloy fsh, 1 year road tax £16,995
 05 **JAGUAR X-Type 2.0D SE Estate.** In shadow grey with full leather interior, colour touch screen sat nav, heated seats, cruise control, climate control, only 18,495 miles, fsh £14,995
 06 **56 BMW 2.0TD 320D SE 4-dr Saloon.** In Arctic grey with anthracite interior, automatic air con, upgraded alloy wheels, rear parking sensors, only 41,655 miles, fsh £14,995
 06 **56 BMW 116i SE 5-dr** In sparkling graphite met with full Boston beige leather interior, comfort pack, cd, climate control, a/c, alloy wheels, reversing sensors, auxiliary pod connection, only 9,950 miles, fsh £11,995
 05 **MERCEDES Benz 1.8 SLK 200 Compressor Auto 2-dr Convertible** in Tellur silver, black leather interior, climate control, multi function steering wheel, CD, alloy, only 61,000 miles, fsh £16,995
 05 **MERCEDES Benz M-Class 2.7 TD ML270 CDI Automatic 5-door Station Wagon.** In Brilliant silver with Orion grey leather interior, climate control, Bluetooth phone prep, privacy glass, heated seats, rear parking sensors, only 49,395 miles, fsh £15,995
 05 **VOLVO S40 2.0 D5 SE** In Amethyst with Ivory Leather interior, cd, alloys, cruise control, electric seats, heated seats only 34,255 miles £19,995
 04 **54 MERCEDES Benz CL500 5 litre 2-dr Auto coupe.** In tanzanite blue with java leather interior with BOSE sound system, AMG body styling, electric sunroof, only 48,245 miles £19,995
 01 **51 JAGUAR S-Type 3.0 V6 4-door Saloon Automatic.** In Pacific blue with cashmere beige full leather interior, climate control, CD, electric seats, rear parking sensors, only 55,810 miles £5,995

SPORTS

07 **VW Beetle 1.6 Luna 2-dr Cabriolet.** In harvest moon beige with dark interior, heated seats, CD, front fogs, colour coded bumpers, only 11,335 miles £12,995
 07 **07 PEUGEOT 207 1.6 HDi Sport 3-dr Hatchback.** In Onyx black with Madrid black/grey interior, air con, cd, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, only 38,300 miles £12,995
 06 **06 VOLKSWAGEN Golf GTI 2.0 (140) 5-dr in steel grey with dark interior, cd, dual climate control, cruise control, alloy wheels, electric mirrors, only 58,300 miles** £12,995
 06 **06 FORD Focus 1.8TDCi Sport 5-dr Hatchback.** In panther black with dark flint interior, CD, air con, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, only 55,315 miles £12,995
 06 **06 BMW X3 2.0d Sport Station Wagon** in black sapphire with ambient leather interior, automatic air con, cd, heated seats, front fogs, only 27,751 miles £12,995
 05 **05 ALFA ROMEO 147 2.0T FS 6-dr Sport Hatchback** in Avus silver with matrix cloth interior, BOSE speaker system, 17 inch alloy wheels, front fogs, climate control, cd, only 39,290 miles £11,995
 05 **05 BMW 330ci Sport Auto** In sparkling graphite with full anthracite leather interior, heated electric memory seats, rear parking sensors, M-sport alloy wheels, multi-function M-sport steering wheel, only 23,450 miles £12,995
 05 **05 MINI 1.6 Cooper S (Chili) Pack.** Black, black leather interior, a/c, alloys, cd, rear parking sensors, only 49,395 miles, fsh £12,995
 05 **05 PEUGEOT 307 2.0 200 Sport 5-dr Station Wagon.** In blue water silver with black leather interior, sat nav, cd, heated seats, front and rear parking sensors, only 61,930 miles £14,995
 05 **54 MG ZT-T 1.8T 160 5-dr Estate.** In Royal blue, Monaco ash half leather interior, alloy wheels, climate control, multi-function steering wheel, only 32,320 miles £5,995
 04 **54 TOYOTA Celica 1.8 VVTi Premium Coupe.** In crystal silver with Montreal black leather interior, climate control, alloy wheels, immobiliser, deadlocks, alarm, CD, only 27,953 miles £7,995
 04 **54 PEUGEOT 207 1.6 HDi 5-dr Hatchback.** In silver with black leather interior, colour coded bumpers, only 22,755 miles £6,995
 04 **04 RENAULT Clio 182 Sport 3-dr Hatchback.** In met blue with half leather/suede interior, sports seats, traction control, cruise control, climate control, 6 cd auto changer, only 51,314 miles £6,995
 02 **02 HONDA Accord 2.3i VTEC Type V (150)** In Atlantic blue with tan leather interior, electric drivers seat, sunroof, alloy wheels, climate control, rear parking sensors, only 48,000 miles £4,495
 01 **Y AUDI A4 1.8 T 16V Quattro 4-dr Hatchback.** In silver with white leather, 16" alloy wheels, heated seats, cd, computer, cd, trip computer, a/c, climate control, cd multi-changer with BOSE stereo upgraded to 63,011 miles £34,995
 00 **00 X-TRM Tuscan 4.0 V8 200bhp.** In crystal topaz pearl blue with portland grey leather interior, cd, 16" spider alloy wheels, e/windows, cat 1 alarm, e/mirrors, a/c, substantial workshop portfolio, supreme example, only 36,000 miles £12,995
 00 **X BMW 325Ci 2.5i 2-Door Convertible.** In Brilliant silver with Montana grey leather interior, automatic air con, rear parking sensors, electric seats, alarm, alloy wheels, hard top in body coloured bumpers, only 87,720 miles £12,995
 99 **T BMW Z3 1.9 2-dr Convertible.** In Green with green leather interior, colour coded bumpers, CD, alloy wheels, electric hood, only 51,300 miles £5,995

FAMILY

07 **07 FORD Focus 1.8 TDCi Style 5-dr Hatchback.** In tonic blue with heated front screen, climate control, CD, cruise control, only 16,700 miles £9,995
 06 **06 TOYOTA Corolla T2 Colour Collection, 1.4 5-dr hatchback.** In eclipse black with silver fleck interior, a/c, alloys, colour coded side skirts, audio controls on steering wheel, one owner, only 32,415 miles £7,995
 06 **06 FORD Focus C-Max 2.0 TDCi Zetec 5-dr MPV** In tonic blue with dark flint interior, cd, air con, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, only 31,000 miles £8,995
 06 **06 PEUGEOT 307 1.6 16V 5-dr Hatchback.** In hurricane grey with Ikhō black interior, front fog lights, cd, cd, a/c, rear parking sensors, only 40,018 miles £6,995
 06 **06 CITROEN Xsara Picasso 2.0 Desire Automatic** in met silver with dark interior, cruise control, air con, trip computer, body coloured bumpers, only 24,645 miles £6,995
 05 **05 CITROEN Xsara Picasso 1.6i 16v 110hp Exclusive 5-dr MPV.** Oriental blue, blue interior, cruise, auto a/c, front fogs, steering wheel mounted audio controls, only 32,355 miles £6,495
 05 **05 CITROEN Xsara Picasso Exclusive 1.6HDI.** In icelandic green metallic with doris blue interior, cruise control, a/c, cd, colour coded bumpers, only 32,420 miles £6,495
 04 **04 PEUGEOT 206 SW 2.0 HDi 90 XSi 5-dr Estate.** China blue, black/grey merlin interior, a/c, body coloured bumpers, cd, alloys, only 45,796 miles £5,995
 04 **04 RENAULT Scenic 1.6i 16V Authentique** in met grey with anthracite interior, a/c, auto wipers, auto lights, only 42,800 miles £4,695
 04 **04 MAZDA 3 1.6TS 5-dr Hatchback** in titanium grey with blue sport cloth interior, air con, cd, alloy wheels, colour system, climate, cruise, electric seat adjustment, only 49,005 miles £5,295
 04 **04 TOYOTA Avensis 2.0 VVTi T-Sport Auto 4-dr Saloon.** Silver fern, st moritz charcoal leather, map gps, cd, a/c, climate, cruise, electric seat adjustment, only 55,065 miles, fsh £7,495
 04 **04 RENAULT Megane 1.9 DCi 120 Dynamique 5-dr Hatchback.** In metallic silver, with anthracite interior, alloy wheels, CD, colour coded bumpers, air con, only 42,955 miles £5,995
 02 **02 AUDI A4 1.9 TDI SE.** In denim blue with phoenix blue upholsterly, climate control, cd, alloys, only 26,075 miles £6,995
 02 **02 NISSAN Almera 1.8 SVE 5-dr hatchback** in catalina green met with tungsten cloth interior, climate control, cd, alloy wheels, sunroof, rear parking sensors, only 44,300 miles £3,995
 01 **Y BMW 3 Series 1.9i 316i 4-dr Saloon.** In bright red with dark interior, electric windows, colour coded bumpers, driver and passenger airbags, only 49,125 miles £4,295

SMALL

08 **08 TOYOTA Yaris 1.0 VVT-i T2 5-dr Hatchback.** In crystal silver, electric windows and mirrors, CD, multi-function steering wheel, only 3,725 miles £7,995
 08 **08 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 Breeze** in black sapphire, alloy wheels, air con, cd, colour coded bumpers, multi-functional steering wheel, only 5,242 miles £7,495
 07 **07 RENAULT Clio 1.5 DCi 68 Extreme hatchback.** In black with anthracite interior, alloy wheels, cd, electric windows, cd, colour coded bumpers, only 44,375 miles £6,295
 06 **06 RENAULT 1.5 DCi 105 Dynamique 5-dr Hatchback.** In eclipse black, dark interior, a/c, CD, alloys, colour coded bumpers, one owner, only 44,375 miles £7,495
 06 **06 FORD Fiesta 1.4 Zetec Climate 5-dr Hatchback.** In tonic blue with Kompass blue interior, air con, alloy wheels, body coloured bumpers, only 39,475 miles £6,495
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More young girls bid for stardom on the football field!



MORE girls than ever are playing football in the Vale and Bridgend county borough.

Grant Kalahar, who has a combined role developing football in both the Vale and Bridgend for the Welsh Football Trust, said: "Girls football has really kicked on this season with a lot of new players taking up the game."

"There are some excellent coaches involved in local girls' football, and the effectiveness of their work has been proven by three players being called up to the south Wales regional squad."

Quality coaching is

Llantwit Major under-12s earn a convincing victory

ON Sunday, Llantwit under-12s finished their 2009 fixtures with a convincing win over Fairwater.

The boys played a brilliant all-round game with good tackling, support play, and passing from backs and forwards, which culminated in a 40-10 victory.

Special mention must go to Jamie Lloyd and Joe Griffiths who played for the opposition.

The squad now take a well earned break from fixtures until the New Year.

Coaches Steve Richards, Jim Anderson and Rich Godwin would like to wish all the squad, parents and friends a happy and peaceful fes-

tive season, and thanks to all for the support shown in the first half of the season.

RG

We welcome your sports items - ggem@internet-today.co.uk

From the kick off, the Vale pack won the ball and set up a ruck for the ball to be passed along the line, but good tackling from Maesteg kept them out.

The Vale forwards were winning good ball and from a ruck on the 22, Sean Boffy picked up and drove forward, passing to Thomas Jones, who stepped inside two men before setting up a ruck.

The ball was then moved to James Holder who raced in to score.

The try was converted

by Dafydd Smith.

The Vale forwards continued to dominate, giving the backs a good platform to attack from but the Maesteg boys tackled well.

The pressure was bound to tell, however, and from a ruck on the 10-metre line, Daniel Bunney picked up and, with the help of his forwards, crashed over for an unconverted try to finish the half with the Vale leading 12-0.

Maesteg started the second half well and attacked at every opportunity but good tackling from the Vale boys kept them at bay.

The Vale forwards, who had been asleep for a time, now started to win good ball again and from a scrum, Joe Short

put the ball in, picked up and drove for the line but was unable to ground the ball.

From the resulting scrum the ball was passed along the line but the Vale were stopped five metres out. This time Short picked up and was not to be denied as he crashed through to score. The try was converted by Dafydd Smith.

The remainder of the half was dominated by defence, with both sets of players tackling well, and at the whistle the Vale had won by 19-0.

The Vale would like to thank Maesteg for arranging the game and wish them all the best for the rest of the season.

SJ

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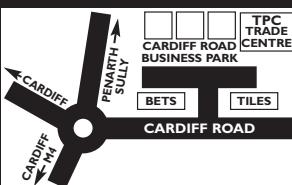
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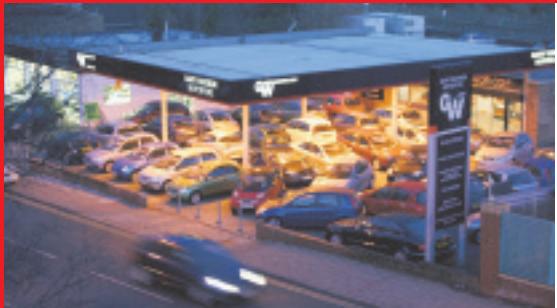
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05	PEUGEOT 206 1.4S 5-dr. Black, 50,000 miles, a/c, cd, etc REDUCED BY £500 TO	£4,495
03	RENAULT Clio 1.2 Expression Automatic in black, 1 owner, 31,000 miles REDUCED BY £200 TO	£4,295
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X	VW Golf 1.9TD GTi 3-dr in jazz blue, very nice example, but extra miles	£2,995
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Y	NISSAN Almera 1.5E 5-dr. in met silver, 41,000 miles, superb throughout	£1,995

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05	CITROEN Picasso 2.0 HDi Desire. 90k, a/c, cd system, plush trim, fuel computer, multi function wheel, superb MPG at	£3995
05	VAUXHALL Astra 1.8 Design Auto. 45k, half leather, air con, cd system, alloys, desirable auto	£5495
56	CHEVROLET Lacetti 1.6 SX. Just 9k, 1 owner + demo, a/c, alloys, cd player, plush trim, huge saving from new	£4495
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03	CITROEN C3 1.4 Desire. 40k, 2 owners, fsh, a/c, cd system, jazzy trim, low tax & ins, 40+mpg	£3995
03	PEUGEOT 206 1.1 Verve. 69k, lady owner, air con, e/windows, CD player, p/steering, only group 3 insurance	£3995
03	RENAULT Clio 1.2 Billabong LE. 54k, lady owner, s/roof, jazzy interior, cd system, low tax + ins	£3495
03	CITROEN Saxo 1.6 VTR. 70k, alloys, sunroof, CD system, sports interior, sporty looks with low insurance	£2995
03	RENAULT Megane 1.6 Expression. 45k, lady owner, full e/pack, air con, CD system	£3195
03	FORD Ka 1.3. 60k, 2 owners, p/steering, low tax & ins, ideal 1st car at only	£2995
52	CITROEN C3 1.4 SX. 60k, p/steering, cd system, e/pack, a/con, low tax & ins, good mpg	£3295
52	HONDA Accord 1.8 V-Tech Sport. 80k, fsh, alloys, a/con, cd system, type R looks, Japanese reliability	£2995
52	PEUGEOT 307 SW 1.6. 55k, a/c, sports trim, huge boot, finished in silver	£2995
52	TOYOTA Avensis 1.8 GS VVTi. 57k, fsh, a/con, cd system, sat nav, e/pack, superb	£2995
52	VAUXHALL Corsa 1.0 Club. Low miles, pas, in flame red	£2495
02	BMW Compact 325 Ti Sport Auto. Fsh, 65k, 18 inch alloys, full black sports leather, met silver	£6495
02	VAUXHALL Zafira 1.6 Club 7 Seater. 70k, fsh, inc T/belt, a/c, cd player, e/pack, local MPV at	£3995
02	CITROEN Picasso 2.0 SX HDi. 59k, service history, a/con, cd system, fuel computer, multi-function wheel	£3995
02	RENAULT Clio 2.0 172 Sport. 79k, fsh, Xenons, a/c, multi cd, half leather/alcantara, superb example at	£3995
02	FORD Focus 1.6 Chic 3-dr. 70k, s/history, alloys, full leather, a/c, cd system, rare car	£3695
02	RENAULT Scenic 1.6 Fidji. 1 owner, 50k, half leather, twin e/roofs, a/c, cd player, alloys, desirable at	£3495
02	RENAULT Scenic 1.6 Fidji. 48k, s/history, air con, alloys, multi-disc, half leather, twin sunroofs	£2995
51	PEUGEOT 307 1.6 GLX. P/Steering, e/pack, upgrade alloys, a/c, cd system	£2695
51	FORD Focus 1.4 LX 3-dr. One owner, full e/pack, low tax & insurance, desirable at	£2695
51	HONDA Accord 2.0 SE. 78k, fsh, alloys, a/con, plush trim, cd system, super condition, ideal family car	£2795
51	FORD KA 1.3. 48k, lady owner, fully colour coded, e/pack, low tax + ins	£1995
51	FORD Fiesta 1.3 LX 3-dr. Only 61k, pas, in royal blue, only	£1995
Y	JAGUAR 2.5 V6 X-Type. 90k, fsh, alloys, a/c, cd system, chrome pack, tremendous value	£2995
Y	VW Golf 1.6 SE. FSH, lady owner, a/con, cd system, full e/pack, low insurance group	£2995
Y	VAUXHALL Corsa 1.0 Comfort 16v. Lady owner, 50k, s/history, low tax + ins	£2695
Y	FIAT Punto 1.2 Mta 5-dr. 40k, s/history, cd system, p/steering, low tax + ins, economy at	£1995
X	BMW 318 CI Coupe. Lady owner, e/pack, c/control, alloys, multi function s/wheel	£3995
X	LEXUS IS 200. 84k, FSH, alloys, e/roof, air con, multi-disc, 6-speed box, half leather, superb	£3995
X	RENAULT Clio 2.0 Sport. 80k, leather/alcantara trim, a/con, alloys, cd system, front fogs	£2995
X	LAND ROVER 1.8 XEi 3-dr. Alloys, air con, sunroof, two tone leather, alloys, lovely example	£2995
X	MGF 1.8 VVC Convertible. Lady owner, 70k, alloys, CD system, full leather, wind break	£2995
W	HONDA Civic 1.4S Hatch. 90k, FSH, alloys, air con, sports interior, CD system, low tax & ins	£2395
W	VAUXHALL Omega 2-litre GLS Automatic. Very clean car, superb value in steel blue, only	£1295
T	LAND ROVER Freelander 2.0 Di 3-dr. Full e/pack, alloys, long mot + tax, part ex to clear	£1995
T	VOLVO C70 2.4 Auto. Half leather, alloys, a/con, cd, hard to find at	£1995
S	FORD Ka 1300. 70k, pas, jazzy trim, lovely example, low tax & ins	£1395
P	RANGE Rover 2.5 DSE Auto. 100k, s/history, leather, cruise, alloys, e/pack, fully colour coded, BMW engineering at	£4695
N	SAAB 93 S Convertible Auto. leather, alloys, a/c, lady owner, nice example	£2495
N	BMW 325 TDS Saloon. Sensible miles, alloys, rear spoiler, air con, plush interior, performance and economy	£1995



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02 BMW 325 ti Sport Compact Auto. 60k, fsh, heated leather, 18" MV alloys, climate, cruise, park distance control



£3995

51 MERCEDES ML55 AMG Auto. 80k, s/history, full leather, sat nav, cruise, xenons, chrome steps + bar.



£1695

02 HONDA Civic 2.0 Type 'R'. 70k, fsh, alloys, cd system, alcantara trim, 6 speed box, awesome!



£3995

03 CITROEN Saxo VTR 1.6. 74k, superb example, low ins group.



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51 BMW 316 Ti Compact SE. Lady owner, service history, alloys, air con, multi-disc, cruise, reverse sensors, superb at...



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03 JAGUAR X-Type 2.0 SE V6. 80k, fsh, alloys, cd system, full leather, chrome pack,

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GEM sport

Local rivals go through to next round
Promising performance but Athletic are edged out of the competition

ON a bright and crisp December afternoon, Bridgend Athletic travelled to Division One West rivals Narberth for the welcome change offered by the Swalec Cup.

Having already been defeated by their West Wales opponents in a league match in October, the Athletic knew they were going to be up against it in the Otters' den.

It was the Athletic who had the better of the early exchanges, though the home team showed they were up for the fight as well.

Conditions underfoot were treacherous and players found changing direction difficult.

After working hard to get into the Narberth 22, the Athletic conceded two successive penalties that took them back to their own 22, but when the ball was passed back close to their posts, youth team fly-half Matthew Morgan ran out of defence.

Lindsey McCausland carried the ball into mid-field where Hywel Davies was in support,

SWALEC CUP NARBERTH RFC BRIDGEND ATHLETIC

15
11

and his inside pass found Stuart Morris. Unfortunately, as Morris went to ground, an Athletic player was penalised.

This allowed Narberth to go back on the attack and as they drove at the posts a high tackle gave away a penalty that home outside-half Craig Jones duly slotted over.

From the restart, the home side set up a ruck and Athletic captain Rod Jones fell off-side and was harshly sent to the sin-bin for 10 minutes to mull over his indiscretion. Luckily, his banishment did not prove costly as last year's youth prop Matthew Norman did sterling work in his absence and young scrum-half Aled Thomas turned defence into attack when Narberth spilled the ball in the tackle.

Just as Jones returned, second-row Jamie Doherty was guilty of indiscipline and promptly replaced his skipper in the bin. He was soon joined there by Narberth

flanker Andrew Dennis, who was guilty of killing the ball and Stuart Morris kicked the penalty to level the scores just before half-time.

The Athletic at last found some rhythm and from a good drive at the line-out, Narberth conceded a penalty which Aled Thomas swooped on and following a quick tap, forced his way over in the corner to give the Athletic the lead with 10 minutes to play.

Narberth were unwilling to give in and drove back at the Athletic. It appeared the danger was over when Aled Thomas marked a chip into the 22, but when he tapped quickly he was isolated and gave away a penalty for holding on. Jones restored Narberth's lead.

In the closing minutes, Narberth exerted more pressure which the Athletic had appeared to repel but the home team were awarded a scrum 15 metres out which led to Narberth completing the victory with a well-taken drop goal.

This was a much better performance by the Athletic. Youth players centre James Olds, fly-half Matthew Morgan, and hooker and youth team captain, Stuart Edbrook acquitted themselves well, as did last year's products Tom Morgan, Aled Thomas and Matthew Norman.

Again, there was plenty of effort on show and this week more of a willingness to look for space. If possession can be retained then this will allow the club to play to its undoubted traditional strengths of flowing rugby and committed support play.

On Saturday, the Athletic welcome League leaders Whitland to Newbridge Fields for what they expect to be another tough encounter.

MARK DAVIES

Local trainers are in winning form

CHRISTMAS came early for Llancarfan trainer Evan Williams last Thursday at Huntingdon when he landed the £70,000 Totesport.Com Peterborough Chase with 12-1 chance Deep Purple who, under stable jockey Paul Moloney, came home six lengths ahead of Tartak, ridden by Welsh jockey Sam Thomas.

Then at Ludlow, he landed 104-1 double with Buck Mulligan (12-1) and The Snail (7-1). The former was ridden by Barry Geraghty and the latter, who was winning for the third time on the bounce, by Williams's assistant trainer James Tudor from Cowbridge. The

ON AND OFF THE TURF with Brian Lee

Snail, who carried top weight of 11st 12lbs, won by more than 20 lengths from the bottom-weighted **Overlaw** who carried just 10 stone.

Ystradown's Bryn Palling made it a good day for the Vale when winning the mares standard open National Hunt flat race with Deegan, a 14-1 outsider partnered by David England.

At Leicester, 24 hours earlier, Williams and Vaughan both had winners. Vaughan took the opener with 18-1 chance **Makhoon** and, later in the day, **MickMacMagoole**, partnered by champion jockey Tony McCoy, beat the favourite **Elk Trail**.

Vaughan missed seeing **Makhoon** win as he was entertaining the national and local press, who had descended on his Aberthin yard for the Coral Welsh National Media morning. **Quintina**.

Vaughan told the press: "If I am going to win a race like the Welsh National, it will be with a horse like **Flintoff**. He'll have a great racing weight of 10st 6lbs and he loves bottomless ground and stays for ever. He's my main contender and I think he is overpriced at the odds of 20-1."

He added: "**Flintoff** really deserves to win a big race. He's been knocking at the door – second in the Midlands National and third in the Scottish National when he was trained by Venetia Williams."

The last time a horse from the Vale was successful in the Welsh National was in 1965 when **Norther**, trained at Wilton Farm, Cowbridge, by Denzil Jenkins and ridden by Terry Biddlecombe beat the Fred Winter-trained **Quintina**.

MARK DAVIES

Wick fight back to beat Barry – and stop the slump

AFTER last week's double disappointment when Wick's First XV ended their unbeaten league run when losing to Pyle Seconds 10-9, and Wick Second XV lost to Sea View (Barry) 12-0, the squad managed to stop the trend at Barry.

Barry started the scoring with a try by Dave Williams, converted by Adam Lee, who soon after slotted a penalty to lead 10-0.

Wick replied with tries by John Birkin and Chris Roberts. The half time score was 10-10.

The second half was played with a feisty intensity by both sides. Barry scored another try through Jon Dimond and Lee converted.

Both teams had a fair

share of territory and possession and the result wasn't certain until the final whistle.

However, it was to be Wick to close the scoring account with a penalty by captain Dan Powell, followed by a try by Rhodri Thomas, which also converted. (Final score 17-20).

This Saturday, Wick First XV are back in

league action at home to Nantymoel Seconds. The Second XV (Millers) will be having a well-earned break until January. **PP**

Christmas abroad for cricketers

A GROUP of talented young Vale cricketers will be spending the Christmas period 7,000 miles away from home – on tour in Malaysia.

On Boxing Day, the Cardiff and Vale under-14 cricket team will begin their Malaysian tour, which includes a fixture against the national under-14 team.

England captain Andrew Strauss even took time to send a note of encouragement to the team which read: "To tour with any team, whether it be England or Cardiff and the Vale gives you an opportunity to see places you might not otherwise see. Spending time together – sometimes in adversity – will bring you together as a squad."

Pencoed win through in the District Cup

IN the circumstances, this was a fine effort from the Pencoed second team, who were returning to playing action for the first time in six weeks.

In a fairly even opening, Pencoed skipper Tom Davies put his side into the lead with a penalty after 15 minutes.

The Sports replied with a penalty from full back Townley. The home side then took the lead, counter attacking from 40 metres to score a converted try at the posts, with the result that

Pencoed responded and pounded the home line, but had no reward with the Sports defence holding firm. Following this passage of play, Pencoed lost captain Davies to a yellow card, given for not controlling his team, a contentious decision this one!

The Sports led at the interval by 10 to 3, and early in the second half threw away a glorious opportunity to increase their lead, with their left wing rounding the Pencoed defence only to abort what would have been the scoring pass inside.

A piece of opportunism from Pencoed centre Lloyd Ryland against the run of play brought his side back into the match. Charging down a drop goal attempt on the 22, Ryland hacked clear, the ball veering off towards the right hand touchline, with the player in hot pursuit.

**BRIDGEND SPORTS Seconds 10
PENCOED Seconds 11**

The ball stood up invitingly and Ryland needed no second invitation, rounding the covering defender to run in a breathtaking try.

With the Pencoed forwards coming more and more into the match, full back Tom Cross put his side into the lead with a penalty goal. In nailbiting injury time, the home side missed a relatively easy penalty chance from 40 metres to score the right hand of the posts, with the result that

Pencoed progress through in the District Cup.

For Pencoed the front row of Andrew Shillam, Steven Potts, and Anthony Morris were in the ascendancy, and take the plaudits, well supported by the experienced Paul Richards, and developing young forward Paul Macfarlane. A further plus for Pencoed was the return from injury of combative centre Andrew Fryer.

GEM QUIZ LEAGUE RESULTS ROUND-UP

LAST week, there were only two points between Royal Oak Nomads and their opponents and this week only one – but this time it meant the loss of their unbeaten record.

Although they were two points up after the written section, a poor individual round sowed the seeds of destruction, as a recovery proved only temporary. Llynfi Arms' tails were up and, with Bob Penny on song, they ran out winners by 48-47.

Nomads' lead is now down to two as Maesteg Catholic Club had an excellent win at Mackworth Arms by 53-39. Oldcastle 'A', who won away to Llangeinor AFC 45-38, are two

points further away and Llynfi Arms join Mackworth in fourth place.

Royal Oak Royals leap-frogged Tondu Railway Club by beating them by 48-39 and Laleston Inn 'As' 45-37 win at Prince of Wales 'A' enabled them to get clear of the bottom two.

In Division 2, Prince of Wales 'B' suffered their first league defeat of the season, going down 49-37 at Laleston Inn 'B', but second-placed Llangewydd Arms were unable to capitalise as they lost 47-36 at Oldcastle 'B'.

Cabo Roche, however, were able to close up on the top two with a 46-31 win against Pheasant Poachers, and going one clear of the Poachers at the same time.

Finally, there were

two away winners, Heol-y-Cyw RFC 43-38 to Gamekeepers and Oddfellows Arms who won 42-39 at Pyle RFC.

Now for the weekly teasers:

1 The River Seine empties into which body of water after flowing through Paris?

2 Who was the first British Prime Minister to have been born in the 20th century?

3 Which non-American was the first left-hander to win the US Masters?

4 Which Canadian singer was born Eileen Regina Edwards on August 28, 1965?

A RUDGE
(Hon Sec BGQL)

B Attack take a clear lead

B ATTACK are now sitting four points clear at the top of the Bridgend six-a-side football table after their latest victory saw them clean up 7-0 against a spirited The Persil Boys.

Nearest challengers Dunraven couldn't cope as Dale Stevenson helped Team Girth to a 4-1 victory, while there were two fine wins elsewhere.

First, William Cannavaggia starred as AFC Just One More Pie crumbled 8-1 against Croissants, then Racing Inter topped AC Brackla 6-0 in a game where Mike Frazer showed his best form.

Finally, in what was tagged as the game of the day, Hangover Heroes sneaked home 3-2 against Day Sleepers as Nathan Rhys proved the difference.

Anyone who wants to join the 6-a-side leagues in Bridgend can ring 0845 230 2340 or visit www.leisureleagues.net

Premier Division

Team Name	Played	Goal Diff	Points
B Attack	8	24	16
Dunraven	8	3	12
Hangover Heroes	8	8	11
Croissants	8	4	9
Team Girth	8	0	8
Day Sleepers	8	8	7
Racing Inter	8	3	7
AC Brackla	8	-2	6
AFC Just One More	8	-15	4
Pie, I Swear...	8	-33	0
Persil Boys FC	8	-	

4 English Channel
3 Mike Williams
2 Alice Douglass-Horne
1 Shanna Twain

ANSWERS